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Professor of Political Economy in the University of Wisconsin

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THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

A CONSTRUCTIVE ANALYSIS

BY

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THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

TO THE FAR THINKING MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, WHO
MUST SOLVE THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

PREFATORY NOTE

THE purpose of this little book is to furnish a brief analysis of the social problem in Western civilization and to outline a scientific social philosophy which shall serve as a basis for a well-balanced progress. The present crisis in our civilization calls for a reconstruction of our social philosophy; for we cannot build anew the structure of Western society upon the inadequate bases of eighteenth and nineteenth century thought. The aim of the book is to indicate the direction which our social thinking must take if we are to avoid revolution, on the one hand, and reaction, on the other. It aims, in other words, to furnish a scientific basis for the progressive social movement; and it is commended to progressives, therefore, in whatever class, party or sect they may happen to find themselves. The attitude of the book will be found, it is hoped, thoroughly positive

and constructive toward all the essential values of our civilization. We should have learned by this time that nothing permanent in our social life can be built upon negation.

It has been thought best not to burden the text with extensive references to authorities for the generalizations made. The deeper scientific foundations of the book, however, are to be found in my larger work on *Sociology in its Psychological Aspects*, and I would be ungrateful if I did not add, also in a large number of the works of my colleagues in scientific sociology on both sides of the Atlantic. It is a particular pleasure to acknowledge the helpful suggestions and criticisms of friends in Oxford and London.

CHARLES A. ELLWOOD.

OXFORD, ENGLAND,
December 8, 1914.

THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

A CONSTRUCTIVE ANALYSIS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION [1]

AN American publicist [1a] recently predicted that the end of our present social order will come before 1930. He points out that many of the social tendencies of the present are strikingly like those which preceded the French Revolution. He cites the mental opacity of our ruling classes as in many respects similar to the stupidity of the old French nobility when they were faced by the necessity of social readjustment in their time. The parallel between recent social unrest and

[1] A large part of this chapter was presented before the Sociological Society (London) in a paper on "The Social Problem and the Present War," which was published simultaneously in the *Sociological Review* and the *American Journal of Sociology*, January, 1915.

[1a] Brooks Adams, *Theory of Social Revolutions* (1913).

that which preceded the storm of the French Revolution would probably be assented to by nearly all students of social history. Indeed, it requires no profound, scientific mind to see the parallel. The blindness and ultra-conservatism of many in our privileged classes on the one hand, the fanatic radicalism and one-sidedness of many of the leaders of the non-privileged on the other, would breed trouble in any social order. Unless plasticity of mind and a sense of social obligation can be instilled into our socially fortunate classes, and broadminded and constructive views shall dominate the leaders of our masses, Western civilization is, indeed, brewing for the world something worse than a French Revolution.

The problem of our civilization is something more than the mere threatened overthrow of existing political and industrial institutions. The problem before us is not how to avoid political revolution, but rather how to avoid the decay and disintegration of civilization itself. More than one half of the world suddenly finds itself (1914) plunged into one of

the most terrible wars of human history. It should be self-evident that there is something wrong with Western civilization, or else such a war could not have taken place.

Many writers have recently told us that our civilization is on the wane, and many things might be cited in the present European war to show that such a conclusion is no mere expression of temperamental pessimism. Indeed, the parallel between existing social conditions in the Western world and those which we find in the Rome of the decadence is closer even than the parallel between our social unrest and that of pre-revolutionary France. There was no need of a Ferrero to point this out.[2] All who know anything at all about the inner facts of our civilization and that of decadent Rome know the disturbing resemblances. The decay in religious belief, in moral ideals, in political honour, the conflict of classes, the breakdown of social regulation and control, the demand

[2] See his *Ancient Rome and Modern America* (1914), especially chapter IV of Part Two (pp. 77–78).

for a strong man and a centralized government to enforce order, all of these phenomena of the present suggest the parallel with Rome. The very forces which undermined Roman civilization, viz., commercialism, individualism, materialistic standards of life, militarism, a low estimate of marriage and the family, agnosticism in religion and in ethics, seem to be the things which are now prominent, if not dominant, in Western civilization.[3]

[3] "Western civilization" is used in its customary sense, namely, the civilization of Europe and its colonies, the two Americas and Australasia.

Most of the disintegrating tendencies referred to in the last two sentences have appeared in menacing strength in Western civilization only within comparatively recent years. In the United States at least many of them became clearly manifest only in the nineties, or even in the early years of the twentieth century. As is pointed out later, such phenomena may not mean social degeneration, but only temporary social deterioration—a rhythm in the social progress, such as history has often recorded. But the writer would emphasize that these phenomena, as well as the War, indicate that Western civilization has not yet grappled successfully with the social problem.

INTRODUCTION

The present war has come as a shock to those who have not studied intimately the foundations of nineteenth century European culture; but in the writer's opinion it is not an accident of any sort, in diplomacy or otherwise. Rather the war has merely exposed the rottenness of some of those foundations of Western civilization. We have supposed that we could rear a secure social structure upon the basis of an egoistic and materialistic social philosophy. We have permitted a rebarbarization of the individual's moral standards without imagining that these would actually express themselves in the life of nations. We have thought that somehow, out of a programme of self-interest, material satisfactions, and brute force followed by men and nations, a settled and harmonious order would result. Even now there are those who fail to see that the egoistic, socially-negative doctrines, which got such a hold of Western civilization in the nineteenth century, both in theory and in practice, are the sources of present disorder. They look for some more

ultimate sources in biologic or economic necessities. But those who see clearly must perceive that while biologic and economic conditions may act as stimuli, the real roots of civilization are always in the mental attitudes and conscious values of individuals. They will also see that some of the mental attitudes and values approved as sound by the nineteenth century have proved unsound in practice; and that the present war of nations calls for a reconstruction of our social philosophy—a rebuilding of it—on a different basis from that approved by the nineteenth century.

This may seem but a partial view of present society, and the writer is glad so to confess. But there is beyond question in Western civilization at the present time a mighty conflict going on between social philosophies, between ideals of life, between the forces of social disorder and dissolution on the one hand, and of social reconstruction and progress on the other. All other conflicts are but parts of this grand conflict in our civilization. No one, perhaps, can at the present time foresee

the outcome of this conflict; but all can, at least, be intelligently informed as to its existence and know something of the power of forces arrayed on either side. We are not justified in thinking that the outcome will be a matter either of chance or of fatal necessity. Nations and civilizations, so far as the historian and the sociologist can discover, do not die natural deaths; their decadence and extinction seem to be rather the result of wrong choices, of misjudgments, especially on the part of the social élite who furnish the leaders in the fields of thought and action. If then our civilization is "at the cross roads," as a recent English writer has well said,[4] let no one suppose that the road which it will ultimately take is predetermined. That will be a matter to be decided by the amount of social intelligence and character which the individuals of the present and of the immediate future can show. In proportion, in other words, as we can get an intelligent insight into the existing social problem and an

[4] Figgis, *Civilization at the Cross Roads.*

intelligent appreciation of the individual and social qualities needed to meet that problem, in that proportion we may hope to control the destiny of our civilization.

The old world of our forefathers has suddenly enlarged and burst its bounds within a generation. The world in which we live may justly be regarded as a new world, transformed out of the old by the working of forces yet imperfectly understood. Many new problems have suddenly come upon us, due to the increase of population, the increase of knowledge, the intermingling of races and cultures, the increasing interdependence of nations, the invention of new machines, and other new developments in industry, politics and religion. These many problems, however, have long been seen, even by superficial students, to be interdependent. Lying at the back of our social problems, we are gradually coming to realize, there is *the* social problem; but unfortunately we are far from agreed as yet as to what that problem is. Theorist and prac-

tical reformer alike have been too prone to see it from the little corner in which they were working. The truly broad view of the problem is scarcely to be found in the social literature of the present, save, perhaps, in the pages of a few writers who apparently have no appreciable influence as yet on practical social and political leaders.[5]

The present strife between classes and nations has obscured the real nature of the social problem in many ways; but in others it has clarified the issues involved. It has shown that the social problem cannot be defined or understood from any point of view which is merely national. War has suddenly revealed the interdependence of national groups and the common life of humanity. When an author, claiming to speak for any one nation asserts that "action in favour of collective humanity outside of the limits of the State or nationality is impossible;"[6] and that its own

[5] Cf. the ideas in Howerth, *Work and Life* (1912) and in Hobson, *The Social Problem.*

[6] Bernhardi, *Germany and the Next War*, p. 25.

mission is to impose its superior civilization upon as large a part of humanity as possible, the rest of the civilized world stands aghast at this frank avowal of group egoism as a basis for practical living. It suddenly becomes evident that the unit of our sociological thinking must be humanity. We see at once that group egoism, whether of a nation, class, or race, is no lovelier than individual egoism. Again, the danger of taking some single principle, like that of the biological struggle for existence, from some single aspect of life, and conceiving the human problem preponderatingly in its terms, becomes evident, when we are told that "the aspiration [to abolish war] is directly antagonistic to the great universal laws which rule all life." [7] We begin to see that all the factors which shape civilized human life, whether material or immaterial, must be taken into account in

[7] *Ibid.*, p. 18. Bernhardi, it should be needless to say, is cited merely as an example of the numerous writers in all countries who justify group egoism in one form or another.

any truly broad view of the social problem.

Let us specify briefly some of the particular, narrow views of the social problem which are dangerously prevalent at the present time. To many, whose vision has been confined largely to the economic relations of classes within the nation, the modern social problem has seemed essentially the labour problem. If it is not merely the problem of the harmonious adjustment of employer and employee, it is at most the problem of finding a social order in which work and enjoyment shall be in satisfactory relationship to each other. Hence the generally prevalent view that the social problem is essentially the problem of the satisfactory production and just distribution of wealth. To find the proper methods of producing and distributing material goods, would solve the social problem, according to these thinkers.

The pacifists, however, looking beyond the bounds of national life, and emphasizing the dangers to civilization itself of international

conflicts, have suggested that the pressing social problem of the present is that of international relationships. If by treaties international federal councils and arbitration courts could be established to discuss all questions and settle all disputes between nations; if the burdens of militarism and increasing armaments could thus be thrown off; then, they seem to think, the inherent forces in civilization, such as increasing knowledge and increasing control over external nature, could be trusted to work out the solution of all minor questions.

But the eugenists, looking beyond the bounds of the present generation, have lately insisted that the real social problem of the present is the problem of the relation of the generations to one another, more particularly, the problem of the control of heredity. Starting out with an abstract biologic man, much like the abstract economic man of the early nineteenth century, they seem to think that the all-important matter is the breeding of man. To secure the perfect, or even the nor-

mal physical man, would be to solve, they think, the essential problem of humanity.

To the leaders of the feminist movement, the social problem appears to be very largely "the woman problem," or at most the problem of the relations of the sexes to one another. When opportunity is given to woman to assert herself freely, to develop her own personality fully, and to make her full contribution to the social life of mankind, then the problems of our civilization will easily be solved.

The views of pacifists, eugenists and feminists are all to be welcomed as tending, at least, to bring out the larger human elements in the problem. Some of us, at least, are beginning to perceive that the social problem is now, what it has been in all ages, namely, *the problem of the relations of men to one another.* It is the problem of human living together, and cannot be confined to any statement in economic, eugenic or other one-sided terms. The social problem is neither the labour problem, nor the problem of the dis-

tribution of wealth, nor the problem of the relation of population to natural resources, nor of the control of hereditary qualities, nor of the harmonious adjustment of the relations of the sexes; but it is all of these and much more. If the social problem is the problem of human living together, then it is as broad as humanity and human nature, and no mere statement of it in terms of one set of factors will suffice. Such a statement obscures the real nature of the problem, and may lead to dangerous, one-sided attempts at its solution.

A word of caution is necessary here. Because the greatest possible broadmindedness is needful to view aright the social problem—the problem of human living together—it must not be thought that it is beyond the power of the human intellect or of science. On the contrary, we may boldly claim that if we will keep to the common-sense view of the world, and not be seduced by one-sided philosophies, enough knowledge of how human groups do actually live together has

already been accumulated to make it possible for any well-trained mind to see deeply and truly into the problem of human living together—whether the living together concern two or three individuals or humanity as a whole. Nor must it be thought that because so many different factors are involved in our social life that there is no such thing as "the social problem," that it is only a name for many different problems. On the contrary, nothing is so real as the social problem—the problem of living together. Every age, nation, and individual must solve it in some way, by howsoever crude a social philosophy. But to solve it aright for humanity at large—in universal terms, so to speak—requires a scientific understanding of the forces at work in human interrelations, and careful putting together in a right way of all the factors concerned. In brief, it requires a scientific sociology.

Let us, therefore, consider the nature of the unity of a social group in the light of modern sociology in order to see what the nature of

the social problem of the present is upon scientific analysis.[8] A social group, whatever else it may be, is a mass of interactions between the individuals who compose it; but if it is to have any sort of unity, these interactions must be regulated and controlled, that is, the activities of the individual members of the group must be adjusted to one another in some more or less definite way. Otherwise, the group cannot work together as a unit nor can its actions work out to any definite end. While analogies are dangerous in science, it may be helpful to compare our social group to a machine. Now the unity of a machine is secured by the nice adjustment of its parts to one another. If this adjustment is not mechanically perfect, there is friction and it will not work well, or perhaps not at all. So in the social group there must be this nice adjustment between the activities of its in-

[8] For a more detailed and scientific analysis of the nature of social unity, see Chapter VIII of the writer's *Sociology in Its Psychological Aspects* (D. Appleton & Co., 1912).

dividual members, if the group is to work well as a unity, or even at all. But the parts of the social mechanism, if we may so call it, are not bits of dead, inert physical matter, but are living, feeling, thinking individual units. The machinist has only to know the principles of physics in order to manipulate the parts of the machine as he will, to secure its harmonious working. But the social leader cannot so easily manipulate the individuals of his group. He must understand human nature in all of its phases; that is, he must know the principles of psychology instead of physics to make the social mechanism work harmoniously. He must understand all the factors, in other words, involved in that adjustment of the activities of individuals to one another, which is necessary in order that the group may work together as a unity.

Now the factors which are involved in the harmonious adjustment of the parts of our social machine are evidently very numerous. First of all, of course, are the external physical conditions. These must be such as to favour

the normal development of human life in all ways or else the social machine will work badly or not at all. But taking favourable conditions in the external environment for granted, it is evident that many internal factors will need to be considered. First among these is the biological make-up of the individuals concerned, and the impulses or instincts which this make-up gives rise to. Unless these are such as to favour the adjustment of the activities of individuals concerned, we can scarcely expect any high degree of social unity. Heredity must be right or else our social machine will not work well. Beyond heredity, however, and equally important is the matter of the acquired habits of the individuals of the group. Either these habits must be similar, or if different, must be such that they can be harmoniously coördinated, or else again we will have little or no social unity. Mere habituation has much to do with maintaining social order; and therefore, external circumstances which affect habit must be strictly controlled by a group if it is to

keep its unity. But if any social unity of more than a merely animal sort is to be attained certain purely subjective elements must also be taken into account. For in all conscious human groups it is the mental attitude of the individuals towards one another which is the final, decisive factor which decides whether a group shall maintain its unity or be disrupted. There are, for example, the feelings, sentiments, ideas, beliefs, and opinions of the group. Not only must these be similar within certain limits, but the members of the group must be more or less conscious of this similarity, that is, they must develop mutual sympathy and understanding. From mutual sympathy and understanding, moreover, arise confidence and reciprocal trust which make possible still closer coördination between the members of a group.

All of these are necessary that the mechanism of human society may work harmoniously. And such facts show conclusively that the unity of human groups is essentially a psychic or spiritual matter. Destroy the

psychic element in it, and we should have no society. Even if the psychic element may be only a means to perfect the adjustments of life, still it is evidently the absolutely decisive factor in the social life of civilized men. And we shall see as we proceed that the psychic or spiritual elements in social life are not wholly derived from the immediate environment, but have a life history of their own. These simple principles of social unity apply to all human groups, from the simplest to humanity if it shall ever become organized.

But what makes civilization? The level of civilization in social development is not reached until in addition to all of the instincts, habits, feelings and sentiments which unite men into groups we have certain socially coördinating, unifying ideas and ideals. For essentially civilization is the discovery, diffusion and the transmission from age to age of the knowledge, beliefs, ideas and ideals by which men have found it possible to conquer nature and live together in well-ordered groups.

It is, in large measure, the substitution of a "subjective environment" of ideas and ideals for the objective environment of material objects; and cultural evolution is possible only through the continuity of this subjective environment, that is, through the continuity of ideas and social values. *Civilization*, in other words, *is at bottom the creation and transmission of ideal values by which men regulate their conduct.* It is, therefore, essentially a spiritual affair and cannot be measured by changes in the material environment, prone as we may be to measure it thus. While human society was from the start psychic, it is manifest that only in its higher developments does it become so dominated by the psychic that it may well be called spiritual. Likeness in the beliefs and ideals of its members becomes finally even more important than the likeness of impulse, habit and feeling which was the original foundation of group life.

Civilized human beings, in other words, cannot live together harmoniously without some mutually accepted scale of values by

which they can measure and regulate conduct. They need not only the like-mindedness which springs from similar impulses, habits, emotions, and feelings, but also generally accepted ideas and ideals of life, if they are to achieve any social order worthy to be called civilized. A civilized social order must rest upon certain ideal values, which, at least in a democratic society, must be accepted by a large majority of the population.

Now, when we look out on Western society, we find absolute difference, if not hopeless conflict, between the fundamental beliefs and ideals of its members. If Western civilization is at present torn with conflicts, it is because just now our world of values is topsy-turvey. Faith in the old ideals by which men have lived in the past has decayed in many classes, and no new ideals have yet been found and generally accepted upon which to build a new social order.[9] There is scarcely an institu-

[9] Compare the chapter on "The Intellectual Temper of the Age" in Professor Santayana's *The Winds of*

tion from the family to the State which is not in the crucible of fiery criticism and in apparent disintegration. Take the institution of the family for illustration. Instead of the general acceptance of permanent monogamy as the ideal of the family, which it was until very recently in Western civilization, we now see this form of the family attacked on every side by groups which advocate divorce by mutual consent, free love, polygamy, and even promiscuity. The proportion of individuals who hold to these views in Western civilization is now so great that their existence can no longer be ignored, while it must be admitted that an even larger number practise these theories without being willing to admit that they hold them as their standards. In other words, much of the present criticism of the family is no longer constructive, but is anarchistic and absolutely destructive, and is proving so in actual practice.

Doctrine—a book which itself especially well illustrates the fact that in many fundamental beliefs the modern world is still "in full career toward disintegration."

Again, if we take modern literature as faithfully reflecting the inner condition of our civilization, the absolute disagreement as to ideals of life becomes even more plainly visible. A very large part of modern literature repudiates not only the traditional standards of Christian ethics, but all truly humanitarian standards whatsoever. It exalts the individual as an end and as a law unto himself, and not infrequently inculcates the gratification of natural impulses and appetites as the highest good in life. It often derides the ideals of service and of self-sacrifice for the sake of service, and even the idea of social obligation. The individual and his feelings are its supreme value. It is not simply a few minor writers who thus flout the traditional morality of Christendom in the family and in general social relations, but some of the foremost figures in literature to-day. The decay of our moral ideals is evident, then, from even a cursory acquaintance with modern literature.

If we take the United States as an example of one of the most developed nations in West-

ern civilization, we find that it exhibits the utmost confusion and conflict with respect to the higher values of life.[10] Every American, of course, with the exception of a few belated idealists, believes in the value of wealth, and of the comfort and power and position which wealth will bring. Practically every American is also convinced of the value of individual liberty, the power to do as one pleases, with a minimum of social constraint. Most Americans are also probably in agreement as to the value of health, or at least they are rapidly coming to such agreement. Finally, the American people seem to be becoming convinced of the value of knowledge, and so of education, at least the education of inform-

[10] An interesting symposium on "What is Americanism," just published in the *American Journal of Sociology* for January, 1915, furnishes ample confirmation of the lack of like-mindedness in the American people as to the ideals which should guide our future civilization. As the editor (Professor Small) remarks: "The one illustrative value (of the symposium) to which we call attention is the exhibit of the miscellaneousness of American minds."

ation. But, if there are other social values of moment as to which the American people are in practically unanimous agreement, the writer is at loss to name them. They are certainly not in agreement as to the value of the family, property, government, morality, or religion. "It is useless to deny," says Professor Giddings, "that our present tendency in the United States is toward anarchy in all those fields of human interest which we have not yet brought under the iron hand of our central government;" and he might have added, "especially in the field of social ideals."

Again, if we take modern Germany as an example of one of the most developed peoples in Europe, we find that in it certain tendencies of our civilization *have come to a head.* We find among certain advanced thinkers that practical ethics has become based upon an evolutionary naturalism which has eventuated in the worship of power, as in Nietzsche and von Treitschke.[11] There are many, even

[11] The writer would emphasize that these tendencies have only *come to a head* in Germany. For indications

among the friends of Germany, who feel that the quality of idealism in social thought and action, which was once the pride of the German people, has, for a generation, been giving place over all the nation to a practical materialism. This materialism has expressed itself in current German literature in a great many socially negative doctrines — doctrines which are not favorable to the increasing solidarity of humanity. In the ruling classes there has been a growing admiration for the army system, a subconscious inclination toward the belief that the might of the State is "the supreme right." Hence for a long period Machiavellian political philosophy has dominated in Germany, not only in practical politics, but to a large extent in academic circles also. A very large school of German historical and political writers have endorsed such views. It is over a

of similar tendencies in other lands, see Cramb's *England and Germany*, and articles in periodical literature like Wyatt's *Test by War* in *The Nineteenth Century and After*, 1911.

generation since Gustav von Rümelin, the renowned chancellor of the University of Tübingen, declared that the principles of Christian morality could not possibly be applied to politics, and especially not to the relations between nations.[12]

This doctrine has been constantly reëchoed, and it is no wonder that a recent German militarist writer can declare: "This law [of love] can claim no significance for the relations of one country to another, since its application to politics would lead to a conflict of duties. . . . Christian morality is personal, and in its nature cannot be political."

It would be ridiculous, of course, to say that all Germans accept such views of life, quite as much as it would be unjust to charge them with accepting free love and polygamy because some of their writers have advocated such practices. But it is necessary to point out how far the pendulum has swung

[12] "Ueber das Verhältniss der Politik zur Moral" (1874), published in his *Reden und Aufsätze*, Vol. I., pp. 144–171.

toward barbarism in morals, as well as towards naiveté in art, among certain groups in a people once famed for their social idealism and Christian piety.[13] Germany only illustrates the reversion towards barbarism in Western civilization generally. And this reversion towards barbarism in the ideals of life must be regarded as one of the chief causes of the present fierce struggle among European nations.[14]

It would not be difficult to cite many instances of recrudescence of barbarism among other European peoples. Indeed, the most distressing thing about the present war is

[13] By "barbarism" is meant that state of civilization in which the chief social sanctions employed are those of brute force, and little or no social control is exercised through the higher ethical values.

[14] It may be well to quote here the words of Ferrero whose knowledge both of classic antiquity and of contemporary conditions few would dispute: "We are travelling step by step back toward paganism, with all its inconveniencies and all its perils." As we have already emphasized, however, this may be only a temporary retrograde movement and it is certainly not an inevitable one.

not the frightful destruction of life and property, but the barbarous hatred manifested by the contending nations toward each other—a hatred such as scarcely has been witnessed in recent European wars. In Germany, for example, admirals, generals, journalists, and even university professors and theologians seem to have vied with each other in the expression of the most bitter hatred toward England; while on the side of the Allies the most eminent Belgian writer of the century, M. Maeterlinck, has said that no mercy must be shown the Germans, that "they must be destroyed as we destroy a nest of wasps." [15] How world peace is to issue from the atmosphere of envenomed hate, which now enshrouds the classes, nations, and races of the modern world, is difficult for even the wisest man to see. Mr. H. G. Wells' prophetic pic-

[15] *The Daily Mail*, London, Sept. 14, 1914. Similar expressions by less well-known individuals have often been noted by the writer in the daily press of the Allies, though it may be added that on the whole the tone of their better newspapers was temperate and unobjectionable.

ture of the destruction of modern civilization seems within the measure of possible realization.

Now, these statements are not made as a basis for any pessimistic conclusion. They are given simply as facts. Such facts are indications, to be sure, of grave social disorder; but such disorder, may, to a certain extent, be a normal accompaniment of the profound social changes through which Western civilization is now passing. To be sure, the negative social ideas which now prevail among certain classes in Western nations cannot be considered an indication of social normality. On the contrary, they present real dangers; but our contention is that in passing from one type of social order to another we must expect a certain amount of confusion in regard to the ideas and ideals by which men govern their lives. It is impossible for societies to change their methods of living without some degree of confusion, just as it is impossible for individuals to make such changes without some confu-

sion.[16] Now, when the change which has to be made is a great one, there will be more opportunity for such confusion. If societies could keep a high degree of flexibility in their institutions, intelligently changing them to meet all changing conditions, there probably never would be any such thing as the breakdown of institutions or social order. In other words, there would never be any social revolutions. There would be only gradual social evolution. Unfortunately, however, the ruling classes of a society rarely keep the flexibility and plasticity in institutions which they should ideally possess. Through shortsightedness or personal interest they attempt to block normal social changes, and that is the way largely that trouble begins in civilized societies. In reaction from the conservatism of the ruling classes dangerous forms of radicalism with socially negative and disintegrating ideas emerge. These disintegrating ideas are used as weapons to attack the existing order of society. The revolt against the existing order

[16] See *Sociology in Its Psychological Aspects*, p. 173.

spreads to all the classes unfavourably affected by existing institutions, and through sympathy finally to many others. Unless the ruling classes yield, a bloody conflict between classes breaks out and we have a revolution.

If the normal course of social evolution is checked, then the stream of progress, blocked for a time by the shortsightedness or selfishness of individuals, will sooner or later break the artificial dam obstructing its path, probably with catastrophic violence, leaving social ruin and the desolation behind it. This is the essence of our theory of social revolutions: [17] and it suffices to explain the general facts of such social calamities from the French Revolution to the recent Chinese and Mexican Revolutions.

Here we notice a peculiar fact about our social machine. Unlike any other machine it will not stay "put." No matter how nicely its parts may have been adjusted to one an-

[17] See Chapter VIII of the writer's *Sociology in Its Psychological Aspects* for a more detailed exposition.

other through some cleverly devised social system, say, through the unifying effect of some generally accepted social policy, they cannot remain adjusted on this plane long; for the conditions of life change, and the social order which worked well yesterday will no longer work to-day. In matters of social organization it is preëminently true that "time makes ancient good uncouth." Civilized human societies must be, therefore, in a continuous process of readjustment. Progress is the very law of their being: and if the ruling classes in any society attempt to enforce a policy of standing still, there is bound to be trouble. The only way to avert social revolution, as Turgot declares, is through suitable and well-timed reforms. The surest way to bring on a revolution, on the other hand, is for the ruling classes to attempt to preserve an order of society which no longer works well; and if we may judge from the lack of adaptability and of intelligent sense of social responsibility of some who are in power in American industry, law, and government, the outlook

is bad for American society just at the present moment.

But if confusion as regards the ideals of life is normal in periods of social transition,[18] and if some development of purely negative or destructive radicalism is to be expected at such times as a natural reaction from the ultra-conservatism of the ruling classes, where is the danger? The reply is that the danger consists in this social confusion and disintegration going too far. There is no assurance in either history or sociology of continuous progressive evolution, that is, there is no assurance that when institutions break down they will be replaced by better adapted or higher institutions. On the contrary, there is always the danger that there will be a reversion to a lower type of social order and of civilization. Socially negative and disintegrating doctrines may be first elaborated as weapons of attack against some existing in-

[18] *Sociology in Its Psychological Aspects*, pp. 173, 174, 176, 177.

stitution, which is no longer adapted, but the fury of party fanaticism may lead them to be taken as adequate doctrines in themselves. The result is seen in the tendency toward anarchy frequently manifested in revolutionary periods, in the series of profound social disorders, culminating finally in the appearance of "the strong man" who is invoked to restore order by despotic means.

Let us recall again the nature of civilization, that it consists essentially in the propagation and conservation of certain ideal social values. We see immediately that civilization is from its very nature a fragile affair: that it is possible for any of the great value traditions of civilized society to be broken down at any moment, especially those which have respect to the higher institutions and relationships. And as Hobhouse says, "If the tradition[19] is broken, the race begins again

[19] Tradition, in the sociological sense, includes all knowledge, belief, ideals, standards and values handed down from the past. Its influence upon the individual may be, of course, either *conscious* or *unconscious*.

where it stood before the tradition was formed."[20] It is easily possible, in other words, for civilized societies to return to barbarism,[21] though a complete return would perhaps necessitate centuries in the case of high civilizations, since not all civilizing traditions could be broken down at once. This process of the decay of the higher social values may, of course, go on in times of social peace through the undermining of the sense of social obligation and social responsibility by materialism and individualism; and we have seen it long going on among ourselves. But in periods of international war and of internal revolution,

[20] *Social Evolution and Political Theory*, p. 39.

[21] It may be reasonably argued that retrogressive movements are more liable to take place in high civilizations than in low ones on account of the delicacy of the structure of the higher civilization. Again, war has become so much more destructive, affects so much more national and international life, that the effects of a prolonged war among Western nations might be to set civilization back centuries. We are not justified in concluding, therefore, that modern civilization is more stable than ancient civilization.

with their bloody conflicts between peoples and classes, the process of social disintegration and of relapse towards barbarism may be infinitely accelerated. For in such conflicts the animal instincts of man are frightfully stimulated and apt to gain control, while negative social doctrines, becoming the watchwords of parties, are made the impossible foundations of social order. Where such conflicts are long continued, the social loss and damage must soon become irreparable.

It is not difficult to see the application of such facts to the doctrine now growing in popularity among us that we must expect social progress by revolution, just as we have organic evolution by mutation. It is true that social progress has often come by revolution in the past, but usually also at fearful social cost. An actual bloody conflict between classes cannot occur without social ruin and disaster. If the wounds of such conflicts as the French Revolution and the American Civil War have healed, owing to the recupera-

tive power of our civilization, this method of progress is certainly too costly for any civilized people to tolerate. If social science cannot show us a better way of progress than by revolution, it is the most useless of disciplines. For we need not only right aims in social change but we must employ wise methods as well; otherwise our methods may defeat our aims. The method of revolution is particularly objectionable in social change since it is doubly liable to defeat its aim. On the one hand, through the bloody conflicts which it may involve, it may do irreparable injury to the finer traditions of civilization; on the other, through the persistence of habit, it is especially liable to be followed by reaction.

Enough perhaps has been said about the nature of society and of social changes to show the essentially psychic or spiritual nature of the whole modern social problem; that it is primarily a problem of values, of ideals, of opinions as to human living together. This is, indeed, in practice admitted

by all except a few fatalists or mechanists. Practical socialists and eugenists, for example, are as busy trying to straighten out our values as to human living as the old time moralists and theologians ever were. The chief difference is that some socialists and some eugenists seem to think that if our values as to economic or biological conditions are straightened out, all other values will spontaneously right themselves. They seem to say that the conditions under which men do their work are so all-important that if they are rightly controlled the conditions of their leisure and amusements will need no control; or that hereditary qualities are so important that if they are properly controlled we need not concern ourselves very greatly about the influence of the environment. There is tremendous one-sidedness in many of the social programmes of to-day; but all parties are practically agreed as to the need of influencing the opinions and beliefs of a considerable element of the population before desired social changes can be brought about.

But to say that the social problem of the present day is essentially spiritual is not to deny the presence in it of many non-spiritual factors. Man's social life, like individual character, develops about two poles—one the material conditions of life, and the other the psychic controls over life, which are represented by values, ideas and ideals.[22] No one who has investigated the social conditions of the present would deny for one instant the importance of the material conditions of life, especially of economic conditions, upon our civilization; and of late we are beginning to appreciate, owing to the labours of eugenists and social workers, the importance among the material conditions of the biological element also. But, admitting the importance of the material conditions of life, the attack upon the problems which they present must come in the first instance through bringing to bear upon them our ideas, ideals, and valuations; and this is merely equivalent to saying that our ideas, ideals, and values must be so ex-

[22] *Cf.* Ross, *Foundations of Sociology*, p. 230.

panded that they include, and give adequate recognition to these material elements.

But, when we say that the social problem is essentially spiritual, something more is meant than that it must be attacked by intellectual processes—by science—if it is to be solved. What is meant is that the psychic elements in it are so influential and so independent that they must be considered preponderant. We mean, in other words, that the ideas and ideals of our present civilization have had a life history of their own, not to be understood through the study of material conditions alone; that there is continuity on the spiritual as well as on the material side in social conditions; and that it *is the conflict between inharmonious traditions and ideals in our culture, on the one hand, and the lack of adaptation of our ideas and ideals to the present conditions of life, on the other, which have produced the modern social problem.* Whether we look at the problem from the standpoint of the blindness of our ruling classes, or from the stand-

point of the hatred and malice of some of the non-privileged; whether we consider the decay of the family or the deterioration of our racial stock; whether we regard the conflicts between individuals or between nations, *what is visible everywhere are confused, inadequate, conflicting ideas and ideals of life.* Men are in inharmonious relations, classes and nations are in conflict, civilization is rent asunder in the modern world, because men have been trying to live by socially inadequate, conflicting, one-sided ideas and values.

It is time that we recognize that certain rotten stones were laid in the foundations of Western civilization; and that these must be removed if the whole superstructure is not to fall. We have been trying to build a delicate and complex social structure upon wholly one-sided and even negative social ideas and values. As examples, we need only point to the materialism, individualism, and hypernationalism of the nineteenth century, which the twentieth century also is apparently starting out to take as its practical

guides.[23] These doctrines are socially negative; materialism, because at bottom it denies the reality of the spiritual or psychic elements which alone make civilization possible; individualism, because it denies the reality of the common life, upon recognition of which must rest the sense of social responsibility and obligation; hyper-nationalism, or national egoism, because it denies the reality of the common life of humanity and the unlimited obligation of nations to humanity. Yet these socially negative and destructive doctrines are so embedded in the structure of our civilization that their most prominent advocates are found among our intellectual and social élite. Even sociologists, who are supposed to be trying to find the solution to the social problem, are sometimes found among their supporters. To such an extent are even scientific men the puppets of their time!

[23] These are only a few of the one-sided ideas which might be mentioned. Perhaps we should include the pseudo-idealism, or rather, *ideaism*, of the nineteenth century.

In such a civilization, with such a subjective environment of socially negative, one-sided, and conflicting ideas and ideals, it is not to be wondered at that we are producing so many distorted and socially inadequate individual characters, who are failures in practically every relation of life, whether it be as children, as parents, as husbands or wives, as employer or employee, as citizens or public officials. Our civilization is evidently breeding within itself a mass of barbarians who do not respect its higher values. These are the only enemies of which it has need to be afraid; for Western civilization is no longer seriously threatened by external foes. If its walls are ever pulled down it will not be by the barbarians of Africa or Asia, but by the barbarians within its gates. Only recently, in other words, has humanity come to a place in the long march up the slopes of progress where it can see an apparently clear road ahead. But it has scarcely achieved this when enemies within its own ranks seem about to obstruct and hamper its march.

Yet the situation calls for no pessimism, but only alertness and intelligent appreciation of real dangers and difficulties, and on the part of social leaders a genuine largeness of mind in seeing all the factors involved. Western civilization needs a great social and spiritual awakening. Its whole atmosphere must be changed. Justice must be established between man and man in economic and other relations of life; and the tradition of peace must be established among the nations. Finally, the springs of individual character must be controlled, so that civilization can get rid of the stragglers, the hangers-on, and the enemies that obstruct its march. To admit that the social problem depends at all for its solution upon the control of individual character has seemed to many to admit the hopelessness of the problem; but we hope to show that this is a mistake, and that wise social leadership is all that is needed to deal with even this most difficult aspect of our problem.

Our present social situation, then, instead of leading to a counsel of despair, should be an

inspiration to effort; for social self-determinism is no mere idle dream of closet philosophers. It is a demonstrated fact of experience as well as a programme built upon the understanding of sociological truth. Human society is but entering upon the self-conscious phase of its own evolution. Through consciousness of its own condition, it can, if it will, control its own destiny, though not in any arbitrary way. There must first be a scientific understanding on the part of social leaders of the part played by each factor which enters into our civilization and which may make or mar its future. It is the purpose of the next four chapters to make clear the part played by each of the principal factors.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL ELEMENTS IN THE MODERN SOCIAL PROBLEM

TRADITION plays a great part in the development of human society. Knowledge, ideas, and valuations, handed down from generation to generation, make the continuity of the social life on its spiritual side.[24] They largely make the "subjective environment" of the developing individual, and so largely control his social development. Tradition thus enters into every social situation. The economic determinists to the contrary notwithstanding, the spiritual elements in human society have a history of their own. That history is so important that no problem in existing social life can be understood apart

[24] For an admirable discussion of the importance of "tradition" in the social life, see Hobhouse, *Social Evolution and Political Theory*, pp. 33–38.

from its rootage in social tradition. This it is which makes history one of the chief methods of the social sciences. Until we know something of the history of the ideas and ideals which make our civilization what it is, it is fatuous to think that we have any scientific understanding of the social problem of the present.

It is not our purpose, however, in attempting some slight analysis of the traditional elements which enter into our problem, to go back to the very beginnings of human history, even though it were possible to do so. Doubtless it is within the fields of cultural anthropology and primitive history that the earliest beginnings of the things which we are about to discuss must be sought. It would not be difficult, for example, to show how man, as he has gradually risen into the higher stages of culture, has carried with him many of the traditions of the savage and barbarian periods of development. In a sense, civilization is still very young. Even in the material things of life man left the stone age behind but yes-

terday, while in spiritual things he still lingers in it. The social and moral traditions of savagery and barbarism, in other words, still survive among us. They are not only a source of maladjustments and evils in present society, but, aided by the animal instincts of human nature, they forever threaten to carry us back to the barbarism from which we have but just emerged. Humanity must, of course, become de-barbarized before it can become truly civilized. The amazing thing in this twentieth century is, not that the snake dance survives among the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico, but that so many barbarisms survive even among the most advanced Western peoples.

This feature of the social problem, however, we do not propose further to discuss. Our purpose in the present chapter is rather to make an analysis of the immediate sources of Western civilization; to find out what its immediate predecessors have contributed to it, and what new forces it has generated within itself.

We must remember, first of all, that Western

civilization is a hybrid affair; that it is made up of elements derived from many sources. We are frequently told that modern civilization is a continuation of the civilization of Greece and Rome, and this, we shall see, is true in no superficial sense. However, the cultures of two other ancient peoples have profoundly affected our own. These peoples were the Hebrews and the ancient Teutonic tribes. From the Hebrews, indeed, we get the things most intimately connected with our social ideals—our ethics and our religion. Nominally, at least, Western civilization accepts Hebrew ethics and religion still to-day as its standard, though there are not wanting signs which indicate that whole classes in our population are on the point of throwing off even nominal allegiance to this standard.

Whatever the scientific student of culture may think of Hebrew ethics and religion, he must acknowledge the conquest of the Western world by Hebrew ethical and religious ideas and ideals to be one of the most wonderful phenomena of recorded history. The Western

world did not accept the God of the Jews because the Jews held any sort of material or spiritual supremacy in the ancient world. It is notorious that they were a feeble and despised people. Some historians and social philosophers have sought to explain the spread of their religious and ethical ideas by supposing that these ideas became greatly modified, if not entirely changed, through contact with Greek civilization; and that it was the Greek element in Christianity which really made it acceptable to the Western world. Without entering upon this controversy, it will suffice for our purpose to point out that modern scholarship finds nothing in the teachings of Jesus which is not to be found implicit, at least, in the teachings of the later Jewish prophets.[25] This Jesus himself recognized. His work must, indeed, be considered the logical culmination of their work. If we distinguish Christianity sharply from the dogmas that

[25] Professor Santayana aptly characterizes the teaching of Jesus as "pure Hebraism reduced to its spiritual essence." *Reason and Religion*, p. 84.

early grew up within the Church, the relation of Christianity to Judaism will be seen to be not different from that of the full-blown rose to its bud.[26] The Græco-Roman world doubtless furnished the proper environmental conditions which favoured this development, but when we analyze the teachings of Jesus, we find them Jewish to the core, even though they had burst the bonds of Jewish particularism. Hebrew religion and ethics thus became nominally accepted by the Western world with the acceptance of Christianity.

There seems to be but one rational explanation of the spread of these Jewish ideas, and that is, the transcendent genius of the ancient Jews in ethical and religious matters.[27] As

[26] The work of the "apocalyptic" scholars, such as Dr. R. H. Charles of Oxford, has shown that there were no "silent centuries" between the Old and the New Testaments, but continuous development. See Charles, *Between the Old and the New Testaments.*

[27] "Ethical" and "religious" are, of course, here used in their specialized sense, not as including the legal, the political, the intellectual, the artistic, etc.

one writer has put it, "They alone were sober, when all the other nations of the world were drunk." Their ethical and religious conceptions have conquered the world because of their inherent truthfulness and social usefulness. Let it be remarked that it is no more absurd to acknowledge the preëminence of the Hebrews along ethical and religious lines than to acknowledge the preëminence of the Greeks along artistic lines. Ethics and religion are indeed much more intimately related to life and conduct than art. The values which they represent have more immediate relation to everyday social life. Because they are so necessary for social survival and development, it does not surprise the student of social evolution to find that ethical and religious concepts should have attained a high development earlier than scientific or even artistic ideas.

Just why this high development of ethical and religious concepts took place among the Jews rather than among some other ancient people is not difficult to understand as soon

as we consider their social life. When the Jews first appeared in history, probably no less than a full millennium of Semitic civilization already lay behind them.[28] They were perhaps able to profit from the mistakes of their Semitic predecessors, as their own writers so often inform us. They developed a simple, pastoral life in which the patriarchal family was the unit of their society. Many writers, following Renan, have ascribed Jewish monotheism to their geographic environment; but it is not too much to say that such a theory is absurd. As soon as we consider their social organization, and especially the part which the family played in that organization, the reasons for their ethical and religious conceptions become clear.[29] All their religious and ethical concepts are based upon the family,

[28] See Professor J. L. Myres' *Dawn of History*, Chapter V.

[29] For the ideas in the remainder of this paragraph the writer is indebted to Professor J. F. MacCurdy's work: *History, Prophecy and the Monuments, or Israel among the Nations*, Vol. II, especially Chapters II and III.

and are really at bottom merely an idealization and projection of the values connected with the family life. God was thought of by them as a father, men as his children, and therefore brothers. All the phraseology of the later prophets especially was borrowed from the domestic and social life. It was, in a word, the superior unity and harmony of the social life of the ancient Jews, especially of their family life, which produced their superior ethical and religious conceptions. As a consequence, both their ethics and religion were preëminently social, even though at first narrowly national. They thought of the moral ideal, not as something subjective and individualistic, but as the harmony of an ideal social group, especially as the love and service of an enlarged family. When these conceptions were universalized by the later prophets and by Jesus, they became social in a broader sense, that is, humanitarian.[30] Social develop-

[30] For the full justification of this preliminary identification of the ethics of Jesus and humanitarian ethics, see the later pages of this Chapter and also

ments in the Græco-Roman world had in the meantime done much to prepare the world for the acceptance of such ideas and ideals, and hence they were the more readily taken up by the whole Western world.

To put it from a somewhat different standpoint, the peculiar merit of Jewish ethics was that it blended religion and morality, resting both of these upon an ideal projection of the values of the family life. This gave a deeper meaning to morality and religion as well as to the social life. At first the resulting moral conceptions were doubtless crude and narrow; but gradually through the course of Hebrew history they become more spiritual, and, at length, were universalized in the later prophets and in Christianity. On the other hand, the religion of the Greeks was so nearly unmoral that their ethical leaders, Socrates and Plato, saw no chance of promoting ideal social ethics through Greek religion. The divorce of ethics from religion seemed to them absolutely neces-

Chapter V. Christianity as a religion is, of course, something more than mere humanitarianism.

sary for the progress of morality. But the later religionless systems of Greek ethics proved largely sterile, for they became current only to a limited degree or in degraded forms. Thus Jewish ethics, combining the theistic and the moral ideas—thus kindling morality with religious emotion—and resting both upon the social life, was alone among ancient systems fitted to survive and to spread over Western civilization, though this was facilitated by the existence of such systems as Platonism and Stoicism.

Now, if it is true that we have received our religious and ethical standards from the ancient Jews, then we must no longer give the Greeks the place of honour for having made the most important contribution to Western civilization, but must give that place to the Hebrews. For, as we have implied, religion and ethics so intimately embody the ideals and values of social life that they must be considered the chief carriers of civilization. Hebrew religion and ethics did not, however, find a clear field. In expanding, these crea-

tions of Hebrew culture entered a world filled with many hostile traditions and with many practices that were entirely inconsistent with their principles. Hebrew civilization, therefore, contributed but one element, though a very important one, in our civilization. From the first, the other elements in Western civilization have threatened to engulf the Jewish ethical and religious tradition.

While we cannot regard the Greeks as having made the most important contribution to Western civilization, we must acknowledge that Greek traditions have in many ways been very influential. In two lines of human activity—the artistic and the philosophic—they were as preëminent as the Hebrews in religion and ethics, and have set the standard for the modern world. The Greeks must be especially credited with intellectual and æsthetic genius. In art not only were they preëminent among ancient peoples, but their artistic sense dominated their whole life. This is the secret at once of the strength and the weakness of the Greek ideal of life. They saw everything

in terms of beauty. Their religion was a religion of beauty; and their ethics partook of the same character. Their ideal of life was, in a word, to be "artists in living."

Greek ethics, accordingly, was largely subjective and individualistic in character.[31] To be sure, the best of their ethical thought was essentially social, as Plato's development of the idea of justice in the *Republic*. But the ethical ideals of Plato, Aristotle and even the later Stoics, as we have seen, appealed only to the select few. The Sophists and the Epicureans, on the other hand, who must be regarded as, on the whole, truly voicing the Greek ideal of life, put forth essentially

[31] "Individualistic" in the sense that they thought of the criterion of conduct as *within* the individual, whereas the Hebrews thought of the criterion of conduct as quite objective to the individual—"in the will of God." Systems of subjective ethics are, of course, to be found at a much earlier date in India, but these did not affect Western civilization. The usual statement found in text books that Greek ethics were objective in character is based upon a somewhat one-sided view of the systems of Plato and Aristotle.

individualistic ethical ideals. They taught an ethics of self-realization, asserting either that self-development was the goal of life or that individual happiness was the *summum bonum*, both agreeing that enlightened self-interest was the guide of life. Individualistic and subjective standards in ethics, therefore, originated with the Greeks, and the total influence of Greek ethical tradition upon our own has been to exalt the self-culture and happiness ideals of life. How these ideals worked out in Greek society itself, history fully records. Almost from the first Grecian civilization was corrupt, and at length in certain of its features it became degraded beyond belief.[32]

Yet Greek ethical ideals have had a profound influence upon the modern world.

[32] For the opposite view of Greek history, see A. E. Zimmern's *The Greek Commonwealth.* This writer's glorification of Greek society, however, is hardly borne out by the later developments of Greek history, and is, indeed, obtained only by glossing over the patent defects of Greek character.

This has been partly due to the tradition that classical culture must be made the foundation of all our higher education in college and university; but even more it has been due to the fact that modern philosophy has constantly turned back to Greek philosophy for inspiration and guidance. Traditionally ethics in the modern world has been a part of philosophy, and modern philosophy finds itself rooted in Greek philosophy. It is not surprising, therefore, that our educated classes have quite as often followed after the Greek ideal of life as after the Hebrew-Christian ideal. However, as we shall see later, the fact that large masses in present society are more held by the Græco-Roman ideal of life than by the Hebrew-Christian, is to be explained, perhaps, not so much through the influence of tradition, or even through the example set by many in the cultured classes, as through original human nature and the immediate conditions of modern life.

To the Greeks, too, we must not forget we owe the beginnings of the scientific investi-

gation of nature and of human society. That freedom of the intellect which is necessary for the development of speculative thought and scientific research first found extensive realization in Greek society. The philosophic-scientific tradition was, then, firmly established in Western civilization by the Greeks, and to them those who have been concerned with the development of that tradition have ever turned for renewal of inspiration. This was, perhaps, the greatest of all the contributions of the Greeks to modern civilization, although their art reached relatively a much higher level of development than their science and philosophy.

We owe to the Greeks, then, our artistic and intellectual traditions in Western civilization; and, incidentally, through these Greek influence has had not a little to do with our ethics and our social life generally. Another ancient people, however, gave us our traditions in government and law. That people was the Romans, who, on account of their extensive conquests, were compelled to de-

velop the machinery of government and law to a point which the world had never before known. Essentially a military and warlike people, with their standards in ethics, religion, philosophy, and art but little developed above the level of barbarism, their genius for political and legal organization laid the foundations for all modern government and legal institutions. To see how extensively Roman tradition affects government at the present time, we have only to note how the names of rulers and officials are still those which Rome gave. Roman law, though relatively late in its full development, has been the wonder and admiration of all the carefully trained lawyers in the modern world, and, as is well known, the legal systems of many countries of continental Europe still rest directly upon the Roman code. While in English-speaking countries legal systems and institutions are supposed to rest upon a more or less mythical English Common Law,[33]

[33] The term "mythical" is applied to the English Common Law to which modern courts and jurists so

yet there can be no doubt that the axioms, principles, and forms of Roman law have also powerfully influenced the law of English-speaking peoples. In this way Rome gave to the modern world the governmental and legal framework of its institutional and social life.

On the other hand, the very fact that Rome was a militant and conquering nation, aiming at the domination by force of all the known world, has been responsible for some of the most unfortunate traditions in Western civilization. Modern militaristic and imperialistic traditions represent a direct continuity with those of Rome. The keeping of standing armies, for example, was first advocated in modern times by Machiavelli, in the sixteenth century, because of his admiration of the methods of Rome. Again, the modern idea of ceaseless expansion as the condition of national life and health was a conclusion which Machiavelli drew directly from his study of Roman history. Even

often make appeal. There actually existed, of course, a body of Anglo-Saxon customs and traditions.

Nietzsche, with his doctrine that "might is right," received his inspiration far more from his classical studies than from any misinterpretation of Darwinism. The Roman Empire rested essentially upon the predatory use of brute force, upon the subjugation and exploitation of weaker peoples, with scarcely anything beyond the merely selfish aim of world dominion. It may well be doubted whether any set of traditions in the modern world has caused so much human misery and suffering as the Roman tradition. At any rate, Greece, with its sensuous æstheticism, and Rome, with its brutal, predatory militarism, have been prime corrupters of modern civilization—apart, of course, from any consideration of the brute-like instincts of human nature and the survival of the traditions of barbarism among all peoples.

But still another ancient people must be mentioned as having made at least a considerable contribution to the original traditions of Western civilization. This people was the ancient Germans. It has been said that they

contributed nothing to modern civilization except the men and women who developed it. However, this seems to the writer a mistake. One strong tradition among us is certainly rooted in the life of the ancient Teutonic tribesmen; and that is the tradition of individual liberty. The North Europeans for many reasons never developed in antiquity highly organized authoritative societies, but remained largely in a state of primitive democracy with simple industries and little slavery. The tradition of individual liberty among them was accordingly kept very strong and was, according to all observers, one of their chief traits. Although later these Teutonic tribesmen were subjected to Roman authority, yet there is abundant evidence in both early German and early English history to show that the tradition of individual liberty continued among them practically uninterrupted; and to the continuance of this tradition among us we owe many of the outstanding features of Western civilization. It is largely at the basis, for example, of that ideal of a free social life which

has been one of the distinguishing traits of the civilization of the English-speaking peoples, and which has come to be shared by the great majority of Western peoples.

But if the Teutonic tradition of individual liberty is responsible for much of the best in the development of modern civilization, it is equally certain that in some ways it has been extremely detrimental. The level of culture in the early Germanic tribesmen was extremely low. They were often pirates and freebooters. Their tradition of liberty was mixed up with predatory customs, and it has remained so to this day. It is not simply the biological fact that we of North European blood are descendants of pirate ancestors which makes our civilization of a more or less ruthless character, but even more the spiritual fact that we have preserved from primitive times the tradition of might being right, and of predatory individual habits. The Teutonic love of liberty, in other words, has tended at times to become a tradition of individual license.

At this point, perhaps, the reader may ex-

pect a lengthy discussion of the influence of the rise of Christianity upon Western civilization. But as we have already shown, Christianity, in the sense of the teachings of Jesus, must be regarded essentially as a development of Hebrew culture, in contact, of course, with other surrounding cultures, especially the Græco-Roman. However, at the time of Jesus' birth, Hebrew ethics, religion, and social life, were far from realizing the teachings of the later prophets, but had actually tended to degenerate, both Church and State being in the hands of powerful reactionary parties. Jewish particularism and formalism again made their appearance and cast their blighting influence upon ethics and religion. But the soul of Jesus rose superior to this ebb-tide in national religion and morals. Instead of going with the current, he boldly set his face against it, and proclaimed himself the Messiah foretold by the prophets, sent to redeem Israel and to establish her spiritual supremacy among the nations. He preached the coming of a social order in which God's will should be real-

ized, the "Kingdom of God"; and revolutionized social ethics by declaring that the service of God consisted in the service of humanity. Jesus and his followers among the Jews must, therefore, be regarded as heading a progressive movement in Jewish civilization which, while it pointed back to the tradition of the later prophets, looked forward to the carrying of their ethical and religious ideals to all the nations of the earth. So, too, the early Christian Church must be regarded largely as a social reform party within the Roman Empire, where Stoicism and Epicureanism at their best had failed to mitigate the increasing inhumanities of a complex civilization resting upon brute-force and the predatory exploitation of classes and peoples.

We must regard Christianity, then, as an expansion of the Hebrew tradition, one which burst the shell of Jewish hyper-nationalism and made its message one to humanity as a whole. In this process the concepts and values of Jewish religion and ethics inevitably became universalized and humanized, but they

remained, nevertheless, essentially Jewish. We should not forget, however, that it was the transcendent personality of Jesus which made possible this marvellous result. Nothing great is achieved in human society, as we have already said, without personal leadership; and this is only one illustration out of many which might be selected from history to show how traditions become intensified and transformed, either idealized or degraded, by passing through some masterful personality. The creative influence of personality can never be safely left out of account in sociology therefore, even though for the sake of brevity we may often have to omit explicit reference to it in discussing large historical movements. It is not inconsistent to say, then, that while the influence of Christianity as a system of ideals in Western civilization is largely the continued influence of Hebrew tradition, it is also the continued influence of the personality of Jesus.

It ought to be needless to remark that the traditions of the four ancient civilizations just

discussed, which have formed the basis of our own, have not always harmoniously blended. Hebrew ethics and religion have not always fitted in well with Greek philosophy and art, Roman government and law, and Teutonic individualism. Indeed, the conflict of ideas and ideals in modern life springs in no small measure from these inharmonious traditions which were originally united to form the main current of European civilization. To be sure, it was the task of the Middle Ages to blend and synthesize into an harmonious whole these varying traditions. Under the leadership of the medieval Church, Hebrew religion, Greek philosophy, and Roman government and law were in one way or another made to work peaceably together, while Teutonic individualism was in the main sternly repressed. The admirers of the medieval ages have indeed represented that period as one of wonderful organic unity; but that that unity was unstable and deceptive, and not a true synthesis of the discordant elements, is witnessed by continued conflicts throughout the Middle

Ages among the different traditions, and in the final breakdown of medieval civilization, and the rebirth of Paganism in the Renaissance. The Renaissance was, indeed, in one aspect simply the re-awaking of the traditions of classic Greece and Rome to their full strength in Western civilization, and it at once made evident their conflict with the Hebrew-Christian tradition.[34] From the Renaissance period onward it has been difficult to say which of the conflicting traditions in question has been predominant. The modern world has certainly had no better success in obtaining a true synthesis of these conflicting traditions than the medieval world. On the whole, however, since the Renaissance, the traditions of Greek and Roman civilization have been uppermost among European peoples.

To add still further confusion, modern civilization has generated within itself certain

[34] As Professor Santayana says: "The ideal of the Renaissance was to restore pagan standards in polite learning, in philosophy, in sentiment, in morals." *The Winds of Doctrine*, p. 38.

new forces which, though based upon the traditions of ancient civilization, yet are very far from being harmonious with them or even among themselves. Hence at the present time we witness not merely the conflict of the inconsistent traditions of four ancient cultures, but also the development of certain new movements within modern civilization itself, which have as yet far from reached their final development.

The first of these great modern movements is the rise of individualism and its obverse, the decline of authority. This movement, to be sure, was rooted in the Teutonic tradition of individual liberty, to which the Renaissance gave a rebirth. The earliest manifestation of this movement was seen in the Protestant Reformation, which must now be acknowledged to have been not so much a protest against ecclesiastical abuses as an expression of Teutonic individualism, and a revolt against ecclesiastical authority of any sort. The next great manifestation of rising individualism was in the Democratic movement, which

had its earliest beginnings about the period of the Reformation, but which culminated in the nineteenth century by the establishment of popular governments among most European peoples.

Along with these emancipatory movements in Church and State, there gradually grew up an extreme individualistic view of life. An egoistic theory of human nature, which claimed that men never acted save from self-interest, and that enlightened self-interest was therefore the best guide of conduct, became an established tradition in Western civilization. The State and even the more spontaneous, natural social groups came to be regarded as forms of contract. The good of life, however, could consist only in the pleasure, or happiness, of individuals, for self-interest could aim at nothing else. The inevitable conclusion therefore was that institutions could and should be changed to suit the pleasure of individuals. Such extreme individualistic views necessarily proved revolutionary in a society honey-combed with an-

cient abuses, and in which all progressive reformation of the social order had been resisted for over three centuries; the result was the violent outbreak of the French Revolution.

The movement to emancipate the individual from all restrictions of authority has been supposed by some to have reached its culmination in the French Revolution; but it is now hardly necessary to point out that this movement has as yet far from spent its force. The tradition of individualism has continued to grow in Western civilization down to the present moment. The decline of authority in Church and State is still steadily proceeding, though with occasional setbacks, while individualism is now manifesting itself in new realms, such as the family, where its growth had scarcely been anticipated.[35]

Any limit of the individualistic movement, short of sheer anarchy, is indeed hard to discern on the present horizon of Western civilization. Our fathers rightly thought that

[35] On the decline of authority, see Ferrero, *Ancient Rome and Modern America*, p. 204.

the emancipation of the human spirit was one of the noblest causes to which men could devote themselves. They even thought that human history might be interpreted as such a progressive emancipation. They could scarcely have been expected to foresee that in the name of such "emancipation" individuals would demand to be released from a well-ordered and stable family life, that women would demand to be emancipated even from the natural burdens of motherhood, and that some men would demand to be freed from the restraints of any moral code whatsoever. While, therefore, historically the individualistic movement has conferred some of the greatest benefits upon Western civilization, and in many countries has still much beneficent work to do, yet it must be judged at the same time as perhaps the greatest menace of the present to social order, and so to civilization.

Partly owing to the freeing of the individual, partly owing to the re-discovery of the work

of the Greeks, science also entered into a new life in the period of the Renaissance. The scientific movement, which then started, has been the second great force which has shaped modern civilization. One can scarcely, indeed, exaggerate the importance of this movement, even if regarded quite in its spiritual aspect; for it has so enlarged man's world, so broken up the foundations of old beliefs, that men have even forgotten that there is such a force as tradition in society. Moreover, it has given man such a mastery over physical nature that it has enlarged his hopes and expectations for the present life beyond even the dreams of the ancient world. This has been more especially true of the later developments of modern science; for after harnessing nature to man's use, it has boldly turned its attention to man's body and mind and has proclaimed that it can control these also. Finally, it has turned the searchlight of its criticism upon human institutions and social organization, and they also seem destined to pass under its sway.

Yet again, owing largely to the mistaken opposition of the Church to scientific research, science has tended to generate some socially negative traditions in Western civilization. It has tended to exclude the psychic or spiritual entirely from its domain, and to make all its interpretations in purely physical or mechanistic terms. Thus modern science has come often to take a negative attitude toward many of the higher social values, and this negative attitude has as a rule been most pronounced in those countries in which the teachers of religion have most opposed science.

Partly as a result of the emancipation of the individual from hampering restrictions, partly as a result of the development of scientific knowledge, a revolution took place in human industry in the latter part of the eighteenth and in the beginning of the nineteenth centuries.[36] The industry of the Middle

[36] For a good general survey of the industrial revolution, see Ely, *Evolution of Industrial Society*, especially Chapter III.

Ages had been carried on in households or in small shops where workmen belonging to the same guild worked together, owning very largely their tools and selling the products of their industry. Under such conditions the workman received practically all the product of his labour, and he was free, after accepting the law of the land and the requirements of his guild, to labour as he chose. But these primitive industrial conditions were changed as soon as machines took the place of hand labour toward the end of the eighteenth and in the beginning of the nineteenth centuries. Machines were relatively costly and could not be owned by independent labourers, but had to be owned by a wealthy class, the capitalist class.

Again, great factories came to replace small shops because it was economical to group machines and labourers together in one large plant. Thus the hand industry and guild industry of later medieval times came to be replaced by the machine industry and factory system of the present day. While there was great gain

to society at large in all this, through the great increase of production of manufactured articles, yet there was a considerable loss to the labouring man. The labouring man lost especially his relative freedom and independence. Owning no longer the tools with which he worked and becoming specialized in his labour, he seemed but little more than a cog in the vast industrial machine. Hence the tendency of capitalism has been to dehumanize the conditions under which the labouring man works.

Moreover, while capitalistic industry tended to regard the individual labourer as simply a machine, it tended also to make the individual labourer himself, rather than his class or his family, the unit in production. It minimized the differences between the sexes and also between children and adults. Industrial development thus powerfully reacted to promote individualism still further, while on account of its dehumanizing conditions it tended at the same time to foster materialistic ideals of life.

A further consequence of the industrial

revolution has been the enormous growth of wealth in the modern world. While this wealth has not been adequately shared by the labouring classes or even by the masses generally, a larger portion of human society has been emancipated from all fear of want than ever before in human history. In other words, the enormous wealth of modern times has stimulated luxury and self-indulgence in some classes of society almost beyond belief.[37] It has made it possible for many to escape from the consequences of conduct from which under more primitive social conditions they could not have escaped. The development of science, especially of the medical sciences, has also placed in the hands of our wealthy classes the means of defying to a certain extent physical and moral laws.

Finally, our industrial system has tended, for the reasons mentioned, to generate antagonism between economic classes. Class conflicts have been an increasingly disturbing

[37] On the increase of luxury in modern life, see Ferrero, *Ancient Rome and Modern America*, p. 208.

factor in our social order. Class interest has become too much a war-cry of contending factions. Worse still, a tradition of class hatred has been growing up within Western nations, sedulously fostered by some of the non-privileged, and often unwisely stimulated by the privileged. Thus a gulf, not only in actual conditions of life, but also in feeling, has been developing between the socially more fortunate and socially less fortunate—a gulf which the sympathy and understanding necessary for social solidarity finds it difficult to bridge. The tradition of the solidarity of class threatens to strangle the tradition of the solidarity of humanity.

Another movement which must be mentioned as having had a marked effect upon modern civilization is the so-called "critical movement" in modern thought, though it is scarcely to be distinguished from the extreme development of the doctrine of individualism, on the one hand, and of scientific thought, on the other. Now, public criticism is a part

of the mechanism of social growth. It is, indeed, the very breath of life of those free societies in which change is rapid.[38] But criticism in order to be helpful must be constructive. It must pick out from the old situation and conserve whatever is of value in building up the new institution or order. But criticism, like all the instruments of the social life, is apt to go to an extreme, and become purely destructive and negative. Such a destructive criticism attacked in the nineteenth century practically all the institutions and values of society. Probably the chief impetus to such criticism were abuses in the existing social order, especially those upheld by the Church and the State. As an extreme reaction from these abuses, purely negative doctrines regarding many of the values connected with religion, morality, government, and the family, sprang up in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and became widely diffused in certain classes. Hence the origin of that "social negativism"

[38] *Sociology in Its Psychological Aspects*, pp. 152–4; 334–8.

which we have already spoken of as the most ominous and threatening thing on the present horizon of Western civilization. For, while criticism began with the noble work of freeing man from superstition and exploitation, it has ended in such absolute social negations as the amoralism of Nietzsche and the exaltation of violence by Syndicalism. Thus a tradition of "moral anarchy" has gradually been established and tolerated in Western nations, a condition which, if sanity and like-mindedness play the part in maintaining social order usually ascribed to them by sociologists, must be held responsible for much of the social disorder of the present, and which may yet ultimately prove destructive of all the higher values of civilization.

On the other hand, in the later eighteenth and through the whole of the nineteenth century, there took place a steady revival of humanitarianism, and the hopeful rise of many humanitarian movements. This may reasonably be ascribed in large measure to a fuller

appreciation of the social implications of the ethics of the religion which had been nominally accepted by Western nations for over a millennium; but it was also in part due to the emancipation of the masses, to increasing knowledge of humanity, to scientific invention and discovery, and to the increasing economic inter-dependence of the world at large. The humanitarianism of the nineteenth century was, to be sure, often superficial, inconsistent, fitful, and purely emotional; but it freed the slave, emancipated woman, educated the masses, organized public and private philanthropy, tried to suppress the liquor traffic, to carry a knowledge of Christianity to the heathen world, and even to put an end to war between nations. Other movements of the nineteenth century which we have mentioned must be regarded as having limits and perhaps necessarily both good and bad sides. But the humanitarian movement, if it can be purged of its weaknesses and allied with humanistic science, alone promises the unlimited, peaceful, all-round development of humanity in

the future. It was the most precious tradition which the nineteenth century bequeathed to the twentieth.

On account of all these factors and many minor ones, the nineteenth century was a century of great social change and unrest. While it was the most progressive century in recorded human history, yet it failed on the whole to develop a constructive social programme. If any ideals dominated it, they were the ideals of individual liberty and material achievement. But these ideals, we are now beginning to see, are almost wholly negative in their implications for the higher social life of man. When taken as ends in themselves, they tend to degenerate into that individualism and materialism which threaten the very stability of Western civilization itself.

It should be unnecessary to add that the peculiar features of modern civilization have been greatly exaggerated in the social life of the American people. Upon the virgin soil

of the New World the seeds of modern individualism and industrialism and of social negativism have sprung up into gigantic growths. All this has been accentuated rather than lessened by the influx into the United States of millions of immigrants from all lands. The social confusion which characterizes modern civilization generally, has been greatly increased in America through the attempt to mix peoples of many different traditions and discordant ideals of life. That like-mindedness, which is most important for social peace and solidarity, is especially absent from American society as a whole. Never before, says Professor Giddings, has any nation attempted to "mingle in one political aggregate, first, antagonistic races, and secondly, the most miscellaneous assortment of nationalities, standards of living, religious, moral and political traditions, temperaments and opinions, ever nominally combined as a single people."

And yet it is perhaps this very intermingling of different races, religions, and traditions of all sorts, which has given rise in America more

than elsewhere to the sentiment of a common humanity, and which perhaps fits it best to lead the humanitarian movement. What will come out of this "melting pot of the nations" no one can yet foresee. Optimistic sociologists are fond of asserting that out of the contact and intermingling of cultures a higher culture is bound to result through the survival of what is best in each. But blind optimism is no more warranted here than elsewhere; for careful scientific study shows that people are quite as apt to imitate the worst in each other, as the best; and that the constant selection of the best results only from high intelligence and character directed by wise leadership.

Another influence which has specifically affected American society, as has often been pointed out by historians, is the tradition of frontier life. On the frontier, civilization is often to a certain extent left behind. Not infrequently the rule of force is the only recognized law, and a stark individualism dominates practical life. The social values associated with a well-ordered social life are given a low

estimate or even tend to be forgotten. Now, practically every American community in its early beginnings represented the frontier; and long after the frontier stage of development was passed the traditions of the frontier have survived in American communities. This is shown by the statistics of divorce, homicide, and lynching, as well as by the traditions of initiative, individual energy, and self-dependence in the American population. Moreover, the frontier frequently afforded great opportunities for the individual to enrich himself through speculation, the exploitation of natural resources, or similar practices. Thus the traditions of commercialism and of a predatory, individualistic business ethics, originally from European motherlands, became fastened on the majority of the American people also.

Such, in briefest outline, are the chief historical and traditional elements which enter into the social problem of the present. And let us always remember that the geo-

graphical, biological, and spiritual elements in that problem act only in their historic settings. The traditions of four ancient and conflicting cultures have mingled in our own; while recent history has developed many and often antagonistic forces in our civilization. We have thus far failed to make a true organic synthesis of these; and it is no wonder that confusion and conflict as to ideals of life have resulted. But this is no reason for supposing the social problem insoluble, though it may take the labour and wisdom of many generations to build the ideal society of humanity.

CHAPTER III

PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ELEMENTS IN THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

THERE is no escaping the fact that human societies exist under certain fixed physical conditions which make them possible. Society may be a spiritual fact; but, so far as we know, it is possible only within very narrow range of physical conditions. Even a small fluctuation in temperature, for instance, would wipe out human life on this planet; while a still smaller change in climate would put an end to all higher civilization. Man's boasted mastery over nature is seen to be a very feeble thing in the face of the earthquake, the tornado, the flood, or even in the face of the physiological laws of his own body, or forces like natural selection operating in the organic world. Man can exist only by submission to such forces; he can progress

only as he understands them and acts in harmony with them.

Now, these familiar facts have led to attempts to interpret all human life, even civilization itself, in physical terms. Because some sets of physical conditions are absolutely necessary to man's well-being, it is argued that they alone, or in conjunction with other physical conditions, entirely determine his social life. Now, it is no longer necessary to refute "geographical determinism," for serious students of human society. It is seen to be like saying that because the shining of the sun is absolutely necessary for man's existence, therefore the sun absolutely determines the life of man. The conditions and the determining factors of social life have been confused. On the other hand, the interpretation of human society in terms of a purely biological "struggle for existence" is not quite so dead, but it rests in last analysis upon no sounder basis. The physical struggle for existence is a very real fact in human experience, and the resulting "natural selection"

a very great factor in social evolution; but there is no reason for supposing it the only factor in that process. Rather, as we have seen, the process of social and cultural development is very different from the process of organic development, even though the latter itself may turn out to be something more than purely physical.

In recognizing the very great part played by physical and biological elements in the social problem, we wish expressly to repudiate, as unscientific, physical and purely biological theories of human society, and to warn the reader against that one-sidedness in social theory and practice which results from too exclusive attention to these physical elements. Nevertheless, because human life develops, as it were, about two poles, one physical and the other psychic, we must in our study of the social problem give due credit to the physical. It is manifest that the heritage of civilization consists, not merely of spiritual elements, but also (1) of a favourable physical environment with suitable natural resources for the

development of the economic and technologic life; (2) of the individual health and bodily vigour of the whole population; (3) of a sound racial heredity, or germ plasm, which shall transmit from generation to generation the potential qualities of body and mind in individuals necessary to meet the exacting demands of an increasingly complex civilization. Even if natural resources, health, and heredity can be controlled only by ideas and ideals, still they stand as objective facts which must be taken into account by any scientific sociology.

Man's control over climatic and general meteorologic conditions is still very limited, but his control over natural resources in the soil, in water, in fauna and flora, and in minerals can be very great. The movement for the conservation of natural resources has happily gained such headway in most civilized nations that it is only necessary to say that it rests upon the soundest ethical and scientific basis. Man has been such a ruthless plunderer of the riches of mother nature that he has in

places left her destitute. Instead of conserving and developing the gifts of the earth, he has exploited them too often for his own individual benefit. Instead of tilling the soil, he has often "mined" it, as it were, to get selfishly for himself and his own whatever wealth he could wring from it, impoverishing future generations. He has cut down forests which he never grew, without planting any in their place, sometimes rendering thereby whole districts uninhabitable. He has wantonly destroyed whole species of animals which might have been of possible use to future generations. He has needlessly robbed the earth of its mineral resources in order to enrich himself more rapidly, though the civilization of the future may depend upon these. All this is, of course, a result of our predatory civilization; and the fatal weakness of the conservation movement is that it demands a consideration of humanity itself, the humanity which is to be as well as that which now is,—such as has not yet established itself among our supreme social values. In other

words, it demands for its success a humanity-wide altruism, uncorrupted by any mere self-interest. But that such a movement has made some headway is one of the most encouraging signs in Western civilization; and we must recognize that the sciences connected with it, such as the New Agriculture, must have part in the solution of the social problem. In this connection, in order to show the wide bearings of the agricultural problem upon the social problem generally, it may be well to cite the words of one of the profounder critics of American civilization:[39] "The country side has in the last half century been too much neglected, exactly as began to be the case in the Roman Empire at the beginning of the second century. It is easy to guess what must be the consequence of this lop-sided arrangement. The cities grow bigger; industries increase in size; the luxury and the needs of the masses, crowded together in the cities, augment. On the other hand, there is no propor-

[39] See Ferrero, *Ancient Rome and Modern America*, p. 86.

tionate increase in the productiveness of the land. And so the increase in wealth is accompanied by an increasing *scarcity* of the fruits of the earth."

Of even greater importance than the conservation of natural resources is the conservation and development of physical health in the population. As Herbert Spencer said, "To be a good animal is the first requisite to success in life, and to be a nation of good animals is the first condition of national prosperity." But through the slums of our cities, through unsanitary work and workshops, through starvation wages and long hours, through alcoholism and sexual vice, through luxurious habits of living and social strain, Western civilization has been seriously undermining health instead of building it up. As an eminent American physician has said:

"The progressive civilization of the last hundred years has worked terribly against the health and perpetuity of the whole race. This is seen in the reduced vitality of the multitude that inhabit closely built cities,

in the diminished size of families, in the incapacity of many women to bear and nurse children, in the disproportionate increase of the insane, defectives and criminally inclined. Such cities as London, Paris, Berlin, New York, and Chicago bear witness that modern civilization is all the time preparing and promoting its own destruction."

With such a statement every careful student of social conditions must heartily agree, except that one may doubt the propriety of calling a civilization progressive which has done such things. From this standpoint the whole public health movement looms up with a new importance. The rôle of sanitary science and public hygiene is seen to be a social one, which affects the whole life of humanity, both now and in the future. It is not merely a question of the sympathetic relief or prevention of the sufferings of a few scattered individuals; it is rather a question of controlling the physical factor in living together, and of conserving the physical basis of civilization. We must put a stop to the

destruction of individual health in mine and factory, in our cities and in our unsanitary rural regions, both by work and by vicious habits, if we are to have either a satisfactory social life in the present or continued progress in the future.

In fact, every preventable disease, every condition which needlessly undermines the vitality of a population is a direct menace and obstacle to all that makes for higher civilization. The sacrifice of life through industrial accidents and diseases, through overwork and underpay, through unsanitary dwellings, through commercialized pandering to men's vicious appetites, we must cease to tolerate among us if we are to progress either morally or physically. The evils of war are great, but they are no greater than these evils of peace which we have tolerated too long. Professor Irving Fisher has shown that the annual loss to the United States alone through preventable diseases and deaths is over $1,500,000,000.[40]

[40] See his report on *National Vitality, its Wastes and Conservation*, Senate Document No. 676, pp. 634, 741.

The economic loss is, however, only a small part of the real loss through the existence of preventable diseases. There is also the intellectual and moral loss of the removal from society, either temporarily through ill-health, or permanently through death, of individuals performing every function in the family, the community, and the nation. We cannot safely assume that preventable disease and death remove chiefly the unfit in society. On the contrary, under present social conditions at least, the victims are perhaps as frequently the capable and efficient as the incapable and inefficient. In any case, one of the prime conditions of normal social life is that there be a prolonged working period for both men and women. If there is some advantage in a progressive society in having a preponderance in it of youth, there is also infinite social loss in having individuals cut off just as they are prepared to render the largest social service. All arrangements in the family, the community and the nation suffer because of the needless uncertainty of life and health. There can be

no solution of the social problem until the problems of health are brought under social control.

Fortunately all the movements that can be included under public health and preventive medicine—the anti-tuberculosis movement, the housing movement, infant welfare, industrial hygiene, school hygiene, urban and rural sanitation—are well under way among civilized nations, even though much remains to be done. Only the movements against alcoholism and sexual vice lack popular support in some communities. The trouble with all these movements is that they too often lack the social point of view. Their leaders do not always see that all social problems hang together, and that they are merely dealing with *the* social problem in some of its physical aspects. Tuberculosis as a preventable disease, e. g., is rooted in all sorts of physical and moral conditions in society. One cannot touch the tuberculosis problem without picking up with it the problems of human industry, morality, heredity—in fact the whole problem of human

living together, the social problem. There is urgent need for a "medical sociology" which shall see the inter-relations of these physical problems with the spiritual aspects of human life.

But the social problem cannot be solved until we can control in some degree that physical relation between generations which we term heredity. Next after tradition, heredity is, perhaps, the most important constitutive element of human society, because it gives continuity to the social life on the physical side. If it is important that we conserve in every reasonable way the life and health of the individual, it is even more important, in any long view of human life, that we conserve the integrity of the hereditary elements which produce each new generation. For the stream of life may be polluted in two ways, either at its source or along its banks. Disease, alcoholism, vice, and unsanitary surroundings may pollute the stream of life after its start, but when we allow the biologically

unfit to become parents we pollute it at its source; and this is in the long run the more serious, for life polluted at its source never can cleanse itself. It is the manifest duty of humanitarian ethics, therefore, to insist that every child born into the world shall have a right start in life—a good birth. Now, this means that it shall have a sound heredity.[41] We need not lose our interest in the influences of the environment which shape character because we are interested in every child having a right physical heredity. On the contrary, if we are interested in every child having a right start in life physically, we should be all the more interested in keeping favourable the forces in the environment which may affect character or even destroy health and life. Otherwise, from a social life point of view, our work is in vain. *Recognition of the importance of heredity, then, is perfectly compatible with the recognition of the importance of nurture or environment.* However much faith we may have

[41] Cf. Saleeby, *Parenthood and Race Culture;* also *Methods of Race Regeneration.*

that in the spiritual elements of life lies the key to the control of individual character and social development, yet we must recognize the physical elements as the basis of our social life; and among these physical elements heredity is easily of the first practical importance.

What, then, is heredity? And how can it be controlled? Without going into technicalities, let us consider the first question.[42]

We all understand what heredity is in a general way. We plant seed in the ground, and from it expect a plant of a certain type to be produced. We know that as much depends upon the seed as upon the soil, moisture, temperature, and light, the factors in the environment. We do not expect a superior type

[42] The substance of the remainder of this Chapter was delivered as a lecture before the University of Missouri in April, 1913, under the patronage of Mrs. Huntington Wilson, and was later published by her in a book entitled: *Eugenics, Twelve University Lectures* (Dodd, Mead and Co., 1914).

Cf. Davenport, *Heredity in Relation to Eugenics;* also, Thomson, *Heredity.*

of cabbage, say, to grow from an inferior kind of seed; neither do we expect the cabbage to grow without the proper conditions of soil, moisture, temperature, and cultivation. Now the seed stands for the hereditary elements involved in such a situation. The heredity, in other words, is *what is given in the germ*, and it is manifest that no attention to environment can possibly develop anything but the potentialities of the germ. Now, the case with human beings is not different from what it is with plants. As in the plant world, so in the human world, heredity is alone creative of individual qualities. The environment can only modify those qualities, though we must not fail to remember that, so far as social conduct is concerned, man is probably the most modifiable of all living forms.[43] Now, if heredity is what is given in the germ, it is evident that *nothing can be inherited except the traits which are inherent in the germ cells.* These cells, out of which the new individual arises, modern biology teaches, are a separate

[43] See Thomson's *Heredity*, pp. 242–9.

series of cells distinct from and more or less independent of the body cells. Hence, the impossibility of parents transmitting to offspring traits which they have acquired during their lifetime, for there is no way by which specific modifications in the cells of the body can possibly reproduce themselves in the germ cells. This fact of the non-transmissibility of acquired traits is known as Weismann's law of the non-inheritance of acquired characters. Though there has been much debate of this law, rightly understood it seems self-evident, when we remember that the germ cells are separate and distinct from the body cells. Under such circumstances it is impossible to conceive that a bodily mutilation could be transmitted from parent to offspring; likewise, that a functionally-produced modification in the body of the parent organism could be transmitted. A clear grasp, therefore, of the truth that nothing is inherited except the characteristics of the family stock, the traits which are inherent in the germ plasm itself, will save many questions.

Weismann's law is, however, often misunderstood by people generally to be the doctrine that the life of the parent organism in no way affects the life of the offspring; that no matter what the individual parent does, it will not affect his offspring. This is, of course, a gross misunderstanding of Weismann's doctrine. Weismann knew, as well as anyone, that the germ cells receive their nutrition from the blood, and hence may possibly be influenced in many ways by the character of that nutrition. As yet, however, scientific evidence is lacking as to the amount and character of the influence upon the germ plasm through nutrition. The evidence seems to point mainly in a negative direction, that is, that the germ cells may be influenced by poisons and by malnutrition, but probably not in the opposite direction. Thus, the evidence seems to be fairly sufficient to warrant the conclusion that a large amount of alcohol in the blood, sufficient to poison the whole system, will poison the germ cells and set up degenerative changes in them. The offspring

of confirmed alcoholics are, therefore, apt to be under-vitalized or afflicted with various forms of degeneracy, such as feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, and insanity. This is, at least, the most conservative, scientific view at the present, though it is still much debated. It will be noted, however, that in this case there has been no inheritance of any specific acquired traits. The poison of alcohol has simply set up degenerative changes which affect the germ cells themselves. It is highly probable that the toxins elaborated by certain diseases may produce similar results; certain statistics, at any rate, seem to indicate that to parents in the advanced stages of such a disease as tuberculosis normal children are seldom born. As an example of the effect of malnutrition on the germ cells, it is only necessary to point out that the malnutrition which accompanies advanced age, shows itself especially clearly in this connection. According to Dr. Bertillon of Paris, who has made elaborate investigations along this line, fathers above the age of sixty years rarely beget perfectly healthy

children. Much investigation is, however, still necessary before we can fully decide how far the life history of the parent organism may influence biologically, that is, by heredity, the life of the offspring. It is certain, however, that we are not warranted in assuming that no matter how we live our life will not affect the physical constitution and health of our children. Rather the only safe conclusion for the present is that we should live on the highest physical plane, not only for the sake of our own efficiency, but also for the sake of our descendants.

Another fact which should always be remembered in connection with heredity is that inheritance is equal from both parents, but traits are seemingly transmitted as units. This fact gives rise to what is known as Mendel's law, according to which there is no permanent blending of different traits in a series of generations, but on the contrary contrasted traits tend to segregate in definite and regular proportions after the first filial generation. For example, if feeble-minded persons inter-

marry with normal persons, their children in the first generation will be apparently all normal persons.[44] But if these children of feeble-minded and normal persons intermarry among themselves, their offspring will be found to be one-fourth feeble-minded and three-fourths apparently normal persons. But if these latter intermarry it is found that two-thirds of them will again have offspring in the proportion one-fourth feeble-minded and three-fourths apparently normal, while only one-third will have wholly normal offspring. This shows that in the second generation one-fourth were pure normals, one-fourth feeble-minded, and one-half hybrids which appeared normal, but which were in fact not so, so far as their germ cells were concerned.

Mendel's law thus shows us the manner of transmission of hereditary traits in individual cases. It is a highly important law for eu-

[44] Assuming, of course, that feeble-mindedness behaves like a simple recessive unit character. But see Goddard, *The Kallikak Family;* also, *Feeblemindedness: Its Causes and Consequences* (1914).

genics, especially because it shows us the results of the crossing of normal with abnormal stocks. It will be noted that, according to Mendel's law, no secure knowledge of heredity can be gained from the observance of just two consecutive generations, but only through the study of three or more generations. In human society, on account of the crossing of numerous stocks, or bio-types, as they are called, practically every mating results in hybrid offspring. Hence the full result of such mating may not be seen until the second, third, or even fourth filial generation.[45]

One further fact should be mentioned in connection with the modern doctrine of heredity, and that is, that apparently minute variations or "fluctuations," as they are termed by biologists, are probably not inherited. Only the larger variations, variations in quality, not in degree, are clearly transmissible. Minute personal traits of the in-

[45] For a clear discussion of Mendelism as well as the whole modern theory of heredity, in addition to the references above, see Walter, *Genetics*.

dividual, in other words, though they may do much to make personality, are not transmissible, but, as we have said, only the characteristics of the family stock, the traits which are inherent in the germ plasm.[46] These hereditary traits, however, affect every quality of the individual, not only his bodily make-up, but, also, in a lesser degree, his mental and moral character.

Now, the science which aims at the practical control of human heredity is called Eugenics, which Sir Francis Galton, its founder, defined as "the science which deals with all influences that improve the inborn qualities of a race." At first sight it might seem that this science was simply the application to the human species of the biological laws which we have just discussed, and that it had nothing to do with sociology. But on further thought we see that the application of our knowledge of heredity in human society involves col-

[46] This, at least, is the conclusion of Johannsen, the Danish biologist, from his experiments.

lective control over the whole reproductive process. As Galton himself said, eugenics must be "the study of agencies *under social control* which may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations, either physically or mentally." It must be included, therefore, as Mr. Victor Branford contends,[47] within the scope of sociology, at least of any sociology which applies itself to the solution of the social problem.

For it is evident that eugenics can do nothing to improve the human breed without controlling the institution of marriage and sex relations generally in society. Practically, therefore, the problem of eugenics in the present order of society is simply the problem of securing wise marriages—wise, that is, from the biological standpoint. The problem of eugenics is, then, a sociological problem, which, however, demands expert biological knowledge for its solution.

There is much to commend and at the same time many dangers and difficulties in the

[47] *Interpretations and Forecasts*, pp. 3, 403.

present eugenics movement. The chief danger is to be found in the over-emphasis of the importance of heredity, and of the biological element generally, in human society. If it has been a common mistake of social thinkers in the past to underrate the importance of this element, it may easily happen that in the future too great emphasis may be laid upon it. Human society, as we have seen, is primarily a psychic or spiritual matter, and social or cultural evolution is only based on and conditioned by organic evolution. Social improvement is by no means mere biological improvement.[48] It follows that an exclusively biological view of human society is one of those dangerous one-sided doctrines which prove negative toward other aspects of our social life. There is as little excuse now for theorizing about an abstract biologic man in society as for theorizing about an abstract economic man. Every sane student of society knows that neither exists. It is inexcusable,

[48] *Cf.* Hobhouse, *Social Evolution and Political Theory*, Chapter III.

therefore, for the eugenist to ally himself practically with the materialist by overlooking the spiritual factors in our social life.

Even if we regard man from a purely physical standpoint, there are beside the hereditary or inborn traits of individuals their acquired traits or habits. Now, there is no sufficient evidence to show that the inborn traits of individuals determine in any great degree their acquired traits, especially in the realm of conduct. On the contrary, these latter seem to be more largely determined by the social environment, especially the "subjective environment" of ideas, ideals, and values which constitute the tradition of the social group of which he is a member. The inborn traits of our forefathers three thousand years back probably did not differ appreciably from our own; but they were savages or barbarians, and we are civilized. Apparently, in the normal man, habits of many varied sorts may be built upon the basis of his inborn traits; yet the former are vastly more important from a social and moral standpoint;

for inborn traits, so far as we know, neither adjust the individual to civilization nor produce high moral character.

The eugenist cannot be pardoned, therefore, when he forgets that we all are born savages; that civilization and most of its virtues are acquired traits; and that, therefore, the problems of our civilization are essentially spiritual. Yet he is right when he insists that certain qualities and capacities of the hereditary elements of the germ plasm, must furnish the basis upon which all human civilization and all acquired mental and moral characters of the individual must be built. We have only to look at the feeble-minded in order to see this. He is right, therefore, when he emphasizes the inadequacy of all social reform which leaves heredity out of account. On the other hand, a sanely developed eugenics movement will recognize the inadequacy of all attempts at social reform through paying attention to heredity alone. It will make no claim that it is any more than one of many agencies which may be employed for

the improvement of human social life. But since heredity is the basis of individual character, it must be controlled if we are to control adequately the development of character; and as individual character, physical, intellectual and moral, is the ultimate problem in human society, we must learn to control heredity in order to solve the social problem.[49]

But there are great practical difficulties in the way of the success of the eugenics movement, even greater than the theoretical dangers just pointed out. The individualism developed by modern civilization has shown itself especially in sex relations. Marriage has been based solely upon romantic affection and its primary purpose is supposed to be the happiness of the parties concerned. To control marriage and sex relations in the interest of society is a difficult matter; yet, as we have said, this is the real problem involved in a

[49] Anyone interested in the problem of heredity in human society should read Dr. H. H. Goddard's illuminating work on *The Kallikak Family*.

rational eugenics programme. It would be a great mistake to assert at the beginning that this could not be done. As Sir Francis Galton pointed out, the institution of marriage has been subjected among practically all peoples, to numerous regulations, some of them of the most absurd character. If this is true, then it must be evident that there is no insuperable difficulty in the way of the control of marriage in the interests of a stronger and better race. The method of control in such a civilization as ours would, however, manifestly have to be different from methods often used in the past. It could not be through superstition, nor even mainly through legal coercion. It would have to be mainly through the power of education, ideals, and public opinion. A practical eugenics programme, therefore, must direct itself to influencing these three great agencies of social control.

Another difficulty of a eugenics programme in modern society is the confusion regarding ideals of life, which we have already pointed out as so marked a trait in our civilization, and the

consequent disagreement as to what are desirable qualities in the individual. It would seem, however, as has often been remarked, that even *we* might agree as to the desirability of health, energy, intelligence, and self-control in individuals as contrasted with their extreme opposites.

A temporary limitation of any eugenics programme at present is, of course, the imperfectness of our knowledge of human heredity. But this is being remedied yearly, and exact biological knowledge seems probable even within the near future.

As to the need of a eugenics programme in modern society, there is practically no difference of opinion among careful students. Long before Galton formulated his programme, sociologists and social workers had often pointed out the need of it. It has long been evident that the greater or less degree of cessation of natural selection brought about in certain social classes by wealth, unwise charity, and other means, has resulted in the gradual production of an enormous number of heredi-

tary defectives, among practically all civilized people. If we take the United States as an example, there are in its hundred million of population over one-half million mental defectives alone, including in that term only the manifestly feeble-minded, the chronic insane, and the epileptic. Recent investigations, moreover, show that a very large proportion of the criminal, pauper, and vicious classes must also be included in the mentally defective classes. In a large majority of these cases, heredity is responsible for their condition. If we add to these mental defectives all those who suffer from serious physical defects, the total number of defective stock in the United States cannot fall much short of three million persons. Of this number, something over one-half million are cared for in institutions, placing upon the normal population a burden of probably about a thousand million dollars annually. When we consider that the defective persons outside of institutions are also frequently a burden upon the normal population, we can see the immense

financial burden which our defective stock imposes upon our nation, to say nothing of the enormous total burden which must rest upon the whole family of civilized nations by reason of the existence of a large per cent of defective individuals in their population. Moreover, when we reflect that a very large per cent of these defectives are married and become parents, and that the lower types of defectives, especially the feeble-minded, have a much higher birth rate than the normal population, we can readily see that the peril of diffusing throughout our general population the traits of these defective strains is not exaggerated by eugenists.

On the other hand, investigation shows that in nearly all Western nations the educated and socially fortunate classes fail to reproduce even sufficiently to keep up their numbers, and that this tendency is rapidly increasing. Thus in England, according to Whetham,[50] the birth rate of aristocratic families declined from over seven children per each fertile

[50] *The Family and the Nation*, p. 139.

marriage in the decade preceding 1840 to 3.13 children per each fertile marriage in the decade ending 1890. Meanwhile the percentage of fertile marriages among the aristocracy had greatly decreased. In Massachusetts in 1910 the native white stock showed a birth rate of only 14.8 per thousand annually of their population, while their death rate was 16.3.[51] On the other hand, the foreign born in Massachusetts in 1910 had a birth rate of 49.5 per thousand of their population, while their death rate was 15.5.[52] These figures seem to indicate that the socially more capable classes frequently fail to reproduce adequately, while other evidence, as we have already said, undoubtedly shows that the socially unfit reproduce more rapidly than the normal. Thus Western civilization is tolerating a

[51] It is scarcely necessary to point out that this stock represents largely the older families in Massachusetts, the stock which produced the great men of New England of the middle nineteenth century.

[52] See the whole discussion of this question of the decline of the birth rate in the writer's work on *Sociology and Modern Social Problems*, revised edition, 1913.

"reversal of selection," and such reversal of selection has been an important factor in the collapse of previous civilizations.

War also, whether civil or international, as has often been pointed out, is one of the agencies in human society under modern conditions which does most to promote a "reversal of selection." War not only prevents the normal reproduction of many of the strongest and fittest by removing them from family life, but it absolutely eliminates them. Nations can easily destroy their strongest and most capable elements by excessive militarism. But, on the other hand, as we have already shown, peace in itself is no guarantee that this "reversal of selection" shall cease. On the contrary, peace with unwise social arrangements and false ideals of living may be as non-eugenic as war itself.

What, then, can be done? As soon as we turn to this practical question, the dangers and difficulties which confront a eugenics programme become again manifest. Espe-

cially is there danger of premature legislation forbidding marriage to certain classes of defectives. People are particularly prone to forget what the law can do and what it cannot do. There is no reason to suppose that the mere forbidding of legal marriage to certain classes of defectives will prevent their propagation in society, because it is probable that many of these defective individuals will find means of reproducing their kind outside of the marriage bond. Unwise laws, in other words, may not prevent the reproduction of the unfit, but only add to the burden of defectiveness the further burden of illegitimacy.

It may be worth our while to pause for a moment to see what the law can do in specific cases, and what it cannot do. It is in general a safe principle to lay down that society should not forbid marriage to any class of persons unless it is prepared to care for that class in institutions segregated from free social life, or, unless it is confident that public conscience and public opinion will be strong enough in its influence over that particular class to

prevent even secret infractions of the law.

We often hear it said that legal marriage should be forbidden to the insane, the epileptic, and the feeble-minded. This is, of course, a correct theoretical position, but such a law would do little good unless it were backed up by provisions to care for and segregate these classes in institutions. The same remark, of course, applies to criminals and vicious persons; it would do little good to prohibit marriage to these unless provision for their segregation were made. We hear much now-a-days also, of laws to prohibit marriage unless both parties can present a physician's certificate showing reasonable soundness in body and mind. But, again it must be said that the State is not prepared to enforce such a law as yet, because in present society many of the persons who need theoretically such control would be practically least amenable to any form of legal control. On the other hand, while the State is not prepared to enforce such a law as yet, on account of the low condition

of public morals, the Church, which is supposed to set the standard in ethical conduct, might very well require of all who come before it and ask for the sanction of religion upon their union, that they present some evidence to show reasonable soundness in body and mind. For how can the Church, the institution which stands for ideals in society, give its sanction to a marriage which, according to humanitarian doctrine, is essentially unethical? As a matter of fact, some churches in the United States have already established such regulations for the marriages solemnized by them, and such regulations seem to work well.

It must not be supposed from what has been said that eugenic regulation of marriage by law is impossible. All that has been said merely implies that legal regulation of marriage, for the more defective classes, must be backed up by adequate institutional and other social provisions. Eugenic regulation of marriage for the normal population by law is, of course, entirely possible where there is adequate backing of such laws by public opinion.

As examples of such laws, we might instance the laws forbidding marriage between first cousins and other near relatives. Careful investigation seems to show that the warrant for such laws, from a eugenic or biological standpoint, is ample. On account of the fact that many families have slight hereditary defects, cousin marriages multiply the chances of these defects being perpetuated, and even intensified. Hence, statistics show that cousin marriages result in the production of a very much larger percentage of defectives than marriages between persons more distantly related.

Other laws of a eugenic character, of course, are possible of enforcement, provided public opinion sufficiently sanctions them. Such a law, for example, would be a wise law restricting the class of immigrants admitted to any country. While it may be very difficult to determine by law, for the people who are already in any country, who shall be permitted to be parents of its future citizens, it ought not to be particularly difficult to act upon this

principle with regard to the admission of our foreign immigrants. While the United States, e. g., have immigration laws already which exclude certain dependent and defective classes, in the opinion of experts these laws are still relatively ineffective and insufficient. An adequate selection could be made at comparatively small expense among our immigrants to exclude hereditary defectives by sending trained field workers to the countries from which they come.

Another legal measure, widely advocated at the present time in the name of eugenics, is the sterilization of habitual criminals and defectives. Eight or ten American states have already passed laws to provide for this, though few have had the courage to put such a law into operation. The general opinion of those who have made the most careful study of this measure is that it is a dangerous or, at least, a questionable law. The sterilization of criminals and defectives does very little to solve the real problems which those classes occasion in society. On the contrary, such

a measure may intensify other evils. Thus, the sterilization of a feeble-minded woman leaving her at liberty in society, would in no way remove the menace which she is to the community, save it would prevent her becoming the mother of children. The unwisdom of such a half-way measure as this must, therefore, be manifest. Of course, there is no objection to the programme of the sterilization of markedly defective persons if it is accompanied by their segregation in institutions; but in such a case sterilization becomes unnecessary.

We come, therefore, to the permanent segregation in institutions of the more hopeless types of defectives as the only policy which society can afford to endorse in its war against racial deterioration. The usual objection to this policy, which has been advocated for over a generation by enlightened social workers, is that it is too expensive; that it would imply an enormous multiplication of institutions. The reply is that, while the immediate expense of such a programme

of institutional development for defectives might be great, yet it would be a saving to society in the long run, an enormous saving if the principles of eugenics are true. Again, the expense is often exaggerated. Society has already undertaken the permanent segregation of one of these classes, namely, the insane, without any very great expense. The segregation of the feeble-minded would entail, if anything, less expense because many of these individuals can be made largely to support themselves in properly managed institutions of the farm colony type. It is estimated that there are, at least, 200,000 feeble-minded persons in the United States, a large percentage of whom should be cared for in institutions. As yet, however, only five states require feeble-minded persons to be committed to institutions just as the insane are committed by public authorities. Provisions for the chronic epileptic class, a very dangerous defective class, are even more deficient.

It may be remarked that wherever the

policy of segregation has been tried it has proved effective. Thus, in northern Italy in the province of Aosta, there existed for centuries a class of hereditary defectives known as *cretins*. These *cretins* suffered from a peculiar form of idiocy or imbecility associated with the degeneration of the thyroid gland which was hereditary. For a time, owing to their marriage being encouraged by the Church, their numbers greatly increased. In 1890, however, a policy of segregation was adopted, and by 1910 only a single *cretin* and three demi-*cretins* were left where hundreds had existed before. Modern society, therefore, cannot enter too soon upon this policy of segregation of pronounced defectives. There can be no question, moreover, as to the humanitarian grounds for such a policy, because it has been demonstrated that such defective persons are nearly always happier and better cared for in institutions than they would be outside, and they do not entail future generations with the burden of their defects.

Such is the extent to which the law can go wisely in aiding the eugenics movement. What law cannot accomplish, however, can be accomplished oftentimes by public opinion and public sentiment. Thus, it might be unwise, for example, at the present, either to forbid marriage to or provide for the segregation of certain classes in our population suffering merely from hereditary physical defects. But because these persons are normal mentally we might expect through the pressure of public opinion to bring them to forego marriage and parenthood. Such a class, for example, is the class of congenital or hereditary deaf-mutes. This is a defect which is highly transmissible if persons of this class intermarry. On the other hand, many congenital deaf-mutes are highly intelligent persons. It would seem desirable, neither to segregate this class nor to forbid them legal marriage, but to develop in them, through education and the pressure of public opinion, a eugenic conscience which, under ordinary circumstances, would probably lead the person

suffering from such a defect not to marry.

Here, of course, questions may be raised which it is impossible as yet to answer with definiteness. Most hereditary defects behave, as the biologists would say, as recessive characters, that is, they do not appear in the first generation of children when persons having such defects intermarry with the normal population. Hence, it has been said by some eugenists that if defective persons would continually marry outside their defective class, these defects would gradually disappear from the germ plasm, and there would be, therefore, no eugenic objection to such marriages. But the danger of such a doctrine is obvious. There are so many defective stocks in existing society that the chances would be great that some of the children of the first generation who appeared normal might intermarry with a stock having a similar defect, then the defect would reappear in individuals. In this way defectiveness would be scattered in society rather than

eliminated. The safe counsel would, therefore, appear to be that persons having themselves marked physical or mental defects should forego marriage altogether, while persons who come from family stocks in which it is known such defects exist, should be careful to intermarry only with normal persons. In this case there would be no danger of the defect reappearing in later generations.

Since much work still remains to be done in the scientific investigation of human heredity, no hard and fast rules can be made for such cases as we have just discussed. For the present, therefore, the safe policy would seem to be to leave such matters to enlightened individual conscience to decide.

Such, then, is the negative programme of eugenics. It would be a great mistake, however, to think of the eugenics movement as entirely, or even chiefly, negative, aiming simply at the elimination of hereditary defects in human stocks.[53] On the contrary, the

[53] One must not forget the problem of quantity as

founder of the eugenics movement, Sir Francis Galton, himself considered the movement to be primarily positive, aiming at the encouragement of marriage and parenthood among the classes of superior endowments. In his own language "The aim of eugenics is to bring as many influences as can be reasonably employed, to cause the useful classes in the community to contribute *more* than their proportion to the next generation." As we have seen at the present time the birth rate has fallen greatly among the socially more fortunate classes, those best fitted to meet

well as quality in a population. Says Ferrero: "One of the reasons why all the most ancient civilizations have perished is that at the moment of their greatest glory the population suddenly began to dwindle; and this sterility which killed them was the effect to a large extent of the license of their customs. Love remains fertile only so long as it restrains and limits itself. Christianity, by subjecting men's customs to discipline—one of its noblest services to mankind—succeeded for centuries in maintaining in Europe and America an incessant fertility, which has proved to be one of the most potent causes of the increase of our power."

the burdens of parenthood, in other words, if not best endowed with ability. It is reliably estimated that at the present time one-fourth of the married population produce one-half of the next generation, and there is much evidence to show that a large proportion of this prolific one-fourth is made up of individuals of mediocre, if not defective, natural endowments.

The problem of positive eugenics becomes, therefore, how society can encourage its better endowed men and women to contribute more than their proportion to the next generation. In other words, how it can encourage marriage and parenthood among the truly better elements of society. Here, again, the eugenics movement is beset by many practical difficulties. It has been suggested that the state, in certain instances, should compensate parents for the birth and rearing of children. It has often been truly said that the mother who bears and rears children is serving the state not less than the soldier who serves upon the battle field. Hence we hear a great deal

about public pensions to mothers and "mothers' compensation." There can be no doubt, of course, about the service to society of a mother who bears and rears normal children. The only question is whether such a service as this should be compensated in a financial way. Are we going to put every service which individuals render to society upon a monetary basis? Or, are there not some services which we cannot pay adequately for with money? and which we should not attempt to pay for with money because it degrades them? Is not parenthood such a service? Would not the women who would accept compensation for motherhood be the very sort of women whom we might least desire to be mothers? Of course society should not penalize marriage and parenthood on the part of its men and women of ability, through industrial, political or other arrangements, as it doubtless does, to some extent, at the present time. It should not, for example, produce a "reversal of selection" by such economic and social arrangements as to make marriage among its edu-

cated classes practically impossible before the age of thirty or as to make celibacy almost a practical necessity for some among them. But, on the other hand, society cannot safely enter upon any pecuniary method of encouraging marriage and parenthood even among those elements that might meet the test of certain qualifications, because such methods would defeat the very end at which they are aimed.[54]

We, then, must give up for the present, at least, the idea of the encouragement of parenthood in any material way. The whole question, therefore, of positive eugenics reduces itself at once to the question of the ideals of life which we should encourage in the young. It, therefore, becomes primarily

[54] This must not be taken to mean the condemnation of the practice of advanced nations in remitting a certain amount of taxation to families where there are children under a certain age, or the practice of granting "maternal benefits" in industrial insurance schemes, such as that of Great Britain. The condemnation is only of *direct* pecuniary methods of encouraging marriage and parenthood.

a matter of education rather than of legislation. The question involved is evidently that of moral education along the lines of sex, marriage, and the family. A large part of the programme of the eugenist must be to induce young people, as Dr. C. B. Davenport says, "to make a more reasonable selection of marriage mates; to fall in love intelligently." This means, of course, that young men and women must, even at a very early age, be given right ideals of marriage and parenthood. If they are to make a more reasonable selection of mates, not only must the widest acquaintance between young people be encouraged by society, but they must also be given other standards of selection than most of them have at the present time. The ideals of good manners, social popularity, good looks, and wealth, must be replaced with the ideals of health, intellectual ability, and moral character. When these latter qualities come to be put first in the mutual choice of the sexes in marriage, there can be no doubt that the benefit to society will be incalculable.

However, something more than the development of right ideals in our young people regarding marriage is necessary for the programme of positive eugenics. That something more is education for parenthood. We hear much of education for good citizenship, but is not a most important part of good citizenship the right fulfilling of the duties and responsibilities of parenthood? By education for parenthood, we mean not so much education in the care and rearing of young children, important as that may be, but, also, instruction of the proper sort along the lines of heredity, sex morality, and the social importance of the family. Hitherto, such education has been mainly left to the family itself, but, on account of the fact that many families do not function educationally in this matter, it would seem necessary to introduce, in a wise way, some of this instruction in our public schools, from the kindergarten up. At any rate, there can be no question that some public educational agency must supplement the home along these lines. Of course, the Church, as

the institution charged with the conservation and propagation of moral ideals in society, is best fitted to be this agency; only the Church fails to reach great masses of our population, and as yet is not fully awake to its duties along these lines. Sir Francis Galton's opinion, indeed, was that the eugenics movement could scarcely reach the masses without the development of a eugenic religion. Eugenic religions have already existed, to some extent, in the past, notably Judaism. Christianity, with its doctrine of the love of humanity and the service of man, ought to be especially fitted to aid a rational eugenics programme in modern society. At any rate, eugenics cannot succeed without the development of a eugenic conscience, and such a conscience can best be developed in the masses probably through the aid of religious agencies.

We must, then, give an important place to the eugenics movement in the solution of the social problem. It has insisted upon certain vital truths which society cannot afford to

ignore, and it has brought a great, new hope into the world. As an undergraduate the writer was told in his course in sociology that heredity was a factor beyond human control; that the most man might aspire to was the control over certain forces in the environment. Such a statement was perhaps justified at the time; but the progress of scientific knowledge of heredity and the rise of the eugenics movement give grounds for the hope that mankind may yet exercise in some degree a rational control over its own heredity; may, in other words, intelligently modify the qualities of the race itself, rather than leave these to be determined simply by the blind forces of physical nature.

Moreover, the moral aspects of the eugenics movement must not be overlooked. Its whole trend is to place marriage and the family upon a much higher basis than it has hitherto had in human society; upon a basis, not of the mere individual happiness of the married parties, but of service of "the humanity which is to be." The eugenics movement is, there-

fore, decidedly humanitarian; and if society will heed its message, it will find its life in every way more normal and "the social problem" much more easy of solution.

CHAPTER IV

ECONOMIC ELEMENTS IN THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

FOR more than a century social thought in Western civilization has been predominantly economic. The consciousness of the social problem among the mass of the people has been very largely in economic terms. To a certain extent this attitude of the popular mind is no doubt justifiable. The importance of the economic element in the social problem of to-day, at any rate, is so large that we cannot even begin to understand the problem without understanding the economic conditions which have played such a large part in creating it. We shall attempt, therefore, in this chapter to make a brief analysis of this element and to correlate it with the other elements involved in our problem.

The importance of the economic element in the social problem has, indeed, given rise to

one of the peculiar philosophies of the present, a philosophy which interprets the whole of human living in predominantly economic terms. This is the social philosophy which is ordinarily called "economic determinism" or "historical materialism," though it has also a number of other names. Not only is this social philosophy preached at the present time from the housetops, having been made a part of the creed of a great political party, but it is too often taught from the professor's chair in our leading institutions of learning. Thus we find an eminent American sociologist saying that the spiritual part of civilization "does not need to be specially fostered;" that with suitable material and economic conditions it requires no special attention, but will come to full bloom of itself if given these conditions.[55] This view, of course, implies that the ideas, ideals, and values which make civilization, as we have seen, are entirely determined in their development by economic conditions. While no sociologist who sets out to interpret

[55] Ward, *Pure Sociology*, p. 18.

human history with this view can long adhere to it consistently, yet, unfortunately, these views come to be taken up by the mass of men who build upon them equally one-sided practical programmes. "Make economic conditions right," they cry, "and other things will take care of themselves." The *laissez-faire* attitude of the social philosophy of the early nineteenth century has entirely broken down with reference to economic conditions; but it has not yet broken down in some classes with reference to other social conditions. These classes find in economic determinism an easy refuge from assuming social responsibility and control over *all* the conditions of life.

We are very far, indeed, from asserting that this popular social philosophy of the present has not a large element of truth in it; nor is it difficult to discover just the measure of its truth. There can be no doubt that many of the main features of modern civilization have really been determined by our present industrial system. The way in which people

get their living has in all ages been a most influential factor in their general living. The methods of producing and distributing wealth, in other words, must in the very nature of things greatly influence the whole culture of a people. In a certain sense the dependence of man upon economic conditions in the strict sense, indeed, increases as civilization advances; for through the labour of countless generations and through the force of tradition and established institutions, the economic environment comes to have a good deal of the same relation to civilized man that the geographic environment had to primitive man. We know how largely primitive man was a slave of geographic conditions; so, too, modern man is so dependent upon his economic surroundings that we cannot conceive of him existing apart from them. But, to repeat the illustration used in Chapter III, to say that we could not live if the sun should cease to exist is very different from saying that the sun determines all of our goings and comings. In other words, we may cordially acknowledge

the complete dependence of civilized man upon the economic system under which he lives without acknowledging that that system *determines*, even in the long run, all his ways of feeling, thinking, and acting.[56]

Just what part of modern civilization, then, does the economic element determine? It is not difficult to answer. The most ordinary superficial observation shows that our economic system determines the great outline, the framework, so to speak, of our civilization. For example, the modern great city is almost entirely a product of modern industry. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries scarcely knew such cities. Not until the industrial revolution began to make itself felt toward the end of the eighteenth century did cities begin greatly to multiply. At the beginning of the nineteenth century scarce four per cent of the population of the United States lived

[56] For a more elaborate discussion of economic determinism see the writer's article on "Marx's Economic Determinism in the Light of Modern Psychology" in the *American Journal of Sociology*, July, 1911.

in cities, while in 1910 over forty per cent lived under urban conditions and nearly one-fourth of the population were dwellers in fifty great cities. One predominant trait of modern civilization, the tendency to develop sharply contrasting urban and rural populations, undoubtedly owes its existence to the rise of our present economic system. For when we examine the causes of the growth of cities, it becomes clearly apparent that these causes are almost wholly economic. The industrial revolution which came through the invention of labour-saving machines transferred industry, as we have seen, from the home and the workshop to the factory. Economic reasons compel the grouping of these factories at certain strategic points in the highways of trade and commerce, while specialization of factories, communities and even nations in various branches of industry increased commerce and multiplied the population engaged in commerce at the same points. Almost simultaneously the application of labour-saving machinery and of scientific methods to agricul-

ture liberated vast numbers of men from the soil. These had to find employment elsewhere and they found it in the manufacturing and commerce of the city. Not the love of amusement, nor facilities for education and culture have been responsible, in a word, for the growth of our cities, but certain compelling economic necessities of our time.

Now, the city has come to dominate Western civilization. It touches the life and character of everyone, no matter whether he lives in the city or in the rural districts. The city of the present gives a certain form and character, therefore, to our whole civilization, both urban and rural. This is equivalent to saying that the economic conditions which have given rise to the city have touched life at every point. Illustrations of a similar nature could be indefinitely multiplied with reference to other features of our civilization. But when we have conceded that modern industry has shaped the main outlines of our civilization, that is not sufficient warrant for concluding that our industrial system determines every-

thing in our social life. On the contrary, it needs but little investigation to show that there are many intimate personal relations between individuals which are very far from being determined by the economic system under which we live. Men still think and feel and act in these intimate relations not so differently from what they did long before the present economic system was born. Many of the ideas, ideals, and values by which men live, in other words, far antedate our present economic system, and will probably survive long after it is dead. It is not true, therefore, that the spiritual elements in life, and especially not those contained in moral, religious, and artistic ideas and ideals, are determined by methods of producing and distributing wealth. The economic system constrains us and even has, as we shall see, a seductive influence upon our ideas and ideals, but it does not and it cannot enchain the soul of man.

Nevertheless, our economic system is so intimately wrapped up with the modern

social problem, as we have already said, that there is no solution of that problem unless we can provide a better industrial system than the present world has yet realized. It may be that what the world needs most of all is a new soul, a new system of values, but it cannot get this new soul in any adequate or complete way until it has a new industrial system. Our present system of industry, in other words, is such that it hampers and restricts the social and spiritual development of mankind. The sooner this is recognized and understood, the better it will be for the world. Just as human slavery at a certain period came to be a stumbling block to all further progress, so modern capitalism has come to be a similar stumbling block.

The present economic order, which we may call that of capitalistic industry, came in, as we have seen, with the industrial revolution; when the invention of machinery and the development of the factory system made it no longer possible for the working man to have the same freedom and independence

which he once enjoyed, when he owned the tools of his industry and perhaps the little shop in which he worked. The invention of labour-saving machinery was, to be sure, an epoch-making step in the progress of mankind, but because of the costliness of this machinery and of the great factory in which it was installed, it inevitably robbed, for a time, at least, the working man of a large part of his economic liberty; and it placed industry in the hands of the wealthy who could supply the capital which was necessary to carry it on under the factory system. Thus was modern capitalism born. Now, what we are concerned to point out is that modern capitalism must not be confused with the wage-earning system. It has sometimes been said that we have capitalism wherever one man works for another. But if this is true, capitalism has existed since the dawn of civilization. All social life necessitates that one man work for another and from very early times men have worked for wages. *Capitalism*, in the true sense in which we shall use the term,

exists only where such vast aggregations of capital are necessary to carry on a given line of industry that in that line the working men become practically dependent upon the wealthy capitalistic class. But these conditions have beome so general in the modern world that all Western civilization can now be said to represent a capitalistic society. Capitalism, at any rate, dominates our present civilization.

But what are the objections to capitalism? Why must it be regarded as a stumbling block to the higher social and moral development of mankind? The reply is that there are certain characteristic features of capitalism *as it at present exists in society* which constitute such a damaging indictment against it that the most thoughtful students of social conditions everywhere are uniting in condemning it.

In the first place, capitalism leads to the exploitation of labour, that is the selfish use of one man by another. It is often said that the way to get rich is to get other people to

work for you. If, however, other people received a just compensation for their labour, a just wage, covering practically the product of their labour, no one would get rich very rapidly this way. What is meant is, that under present conditions it is easily possible for the rich and economically successful in society to get the economically weak to work for them under such conditions that they need not pay them a full compensation for the service they render. This is all the easier, not only because of the dependence of the economically weak, but because moral standards have traditionally sanctioned such practices. It is considered simply good business to hire labour in as cheap a market as can be found; to pay no more to the labouring man than what is barely necessary under a system of competitive bidding of labouring men against one another. Hence, the tendency has been often to force wages down to what was necessary for the bare subsistence of the labouring man and his family. Indeed, wages have tended to go lower than that and to establish

themselves in some instances upon what is known as the single man's standard.

Another objection to capitalism is that it results in an unjust distribution of wealth. From the very fact that it gives undue opportunities for the exploitation of labour it must result in certain wealth going to the employing class, which justly belongs to the labouring class. Now, there can be no doubt at all but that if we take the labouring class as a whole in modern industrial communities, they are not adequately paid for their work. It is estimated that in the United States, for example, where wages are higher than in any other advanced industrial nation, sixty-five per cent of the labourers receive wages of less than six hundred dollars a year. On the other hand, according to the figures of the United States Census, the profits in manufacturing industry in the year 1909 were about twelve per cent after due allowance for interest, insurance, taxes and all other fixed charges on the total capital employed. In

other words, the capitalist class received in addition to "interest" in manufacturing industry in 1909, about twelve per cent of "profits." On the other hand, only a little over fifty-one per cent of the total value of the product added by manufacturing went to working men and other employees in the form of wages or salaries. It will be seen from these figures, even though they are by no means accurate, that the working man is still very far from receiving a just share of the product of his labour; and that, on the other hand, the comparatively small class of owners receive in addition to the interest on their capital a considerable margin of "speculative profit."

Now, there may be some question raised as to the rightfulness of interest, and this question is, of course, already raised by the socialists and many other types of radical social thinkers. But what shall we say of the element of "speculative profit" which is now going to the capitalist class? If there is any question to be raised as to the legitimacy of interest, much more could it be raised of this

element of so-called private profit. We may assume that interest, wages of superintendence, and the like, are a part of "necessary profits," without which business cannot be carried on upon a basis of private ownership and initiative. But "speculative profits" are not "necessary profits" and they represent in no sense a compensation for services rendered to the community. The whole modern industrial world, however, has become so accustomed to looking upon speculative profits as justly belonging to the owner or proprietor of a business that it refuses to think that business can be carried on upon any other basis. A large proportion of the business of the world, however, has always been carried on without any elements of speculative profit in it. It has had to remain satisfied with necessary profits, interest and wages of superintendence, in other words, with adequate compensation for service rendered. If business were for service and not for private profit, there would be no element of speculative profits demanded by the capitalist class.

Whether the capitalist class is entitled to interest or not, is probably a question concerning which there will be many debates in the future. But it would seem safe to say at the present time that the capitalist class is certainly not entitled to "speculative profits" in the same sense or degree even to which it is entitled to "interest"; and that if for reasons of public policy speculative gains are allowed to go to private individuals they cannot regard themselves as entitled to them in the same sense in which they are entitled to property got by service rendered the community. We must distinguish, in other words, between "earnings" and "findings" in the income of all classes, and speculative profit is certainly "a finding."

Now, the result of the appropriation of these "findings" or speculative profits by the capitalist class is the enormous enrichment of the capitalist class and the poverty of the labouring class. Poverty, to be sure, is not the greatest evil in the world, as so many of the writers of the present assume. Poverty, indeed, is

not an evil at all when the circumstances are such that one can readily raise one's self out of poverty. But this is not the case with modern industrial poverty. Much of the poverty of the modern world, in other words, is of the hopeless sort, from which strong and capable individuals cannot extricate themselves. Now, hopeless poverty is not only depressing but easily becomes positively demoralizing to the individual. It robs him not only of hope but also of the higher moral aspirations of life. Thus poverty which is hopeless becomes degrading and becomes linked with degeneracy, vice, and crime. With our easy theory that every one can look out for himself, and that rich and poor alike are entitled to all that they can get and all that they can keep, we have thus allowed to grow up in Western civilization a propertyless labouring class who have no interest in the future, for they are without hope that they can extricate themselves from their present position save by revolution.

Another result of this unjust distribution

of wealth which capitalism has brought about is the breeding of war between the classes in society, between the propertied on the one hand and the propertyless on the other. Now, class war is not a normal thing in a properly organized human society; but it is an ominous and an almost omnipresent thing in Western civilization. Sympathy and goodwill unite men in harmonious social life, but hatred and antagonism dissolve all social bonds. Unless we can overcome the class antagonism which is growing up, we must come, sooner or later, to open and bloody conflicts in Western nations between the labouring and the capitalistic class. From that conflict, as we have already insisted, it is improbable that a higher and more stable civilization would issue.

So, too, capitalism has needlessly increased the antagonism between nations.[57] Through

[57] That capitalism tends to peace is, of course, often asserted, and it should not be ignored that capitalism of a certain type may tend strongly to preserve peace between nations. This is capitalism of the conservative or "investment" type which has given up "speculative

their control of government, the capitalist class in Western civilization have often used the machinery of the State to promote their own interests. They have demanded new markets for their goods and immense armaments to protect trade and commerce, and have not scrupled to use Machiavellian statecraft to reach their ends. They have thus bred war and the spirit of war between nations. The present war between European nations again shows this. While we have insisted upon the deep moral causes of the present war, as due in last analysis to conflicting traditions and ideals of life in Western civilization, and while socialism we believe to be no guarantee against either national egoism or moral atavism; yet it would be most unjust to overlook the obvious truth that the war

enterprise." But, on the other hand, capitalism of the "exploitative" type is continually giving rise to bickerings and jealousies between nations. And it is not unfair to say that the capitalism of the speculative, "exploitative" type has hitherto dominated in Western civilization, and has had a large share in *provoking* many wars, among them the present one.

has also been due to the long development of an intense economic rivalry between the two great capitalistic nations—Great Britain and Germany, in both of which the government has been for a long period more or less dominated by the capitalist class. The older capitalism of England looked with suspicion upon the newer capitalism of Germany with its bid for the markets of the world. This led British capitalism to use the resources of British diplomacy and prestige to block the commercial and political expansion of Germany in Africa and Asia; [58] while, on the other hand, the military-capitalist class of Germany, backed by an astounding philosophy of national and racial egoism,[59] slowly fanned into

[58] The reference is, of course, to the blocking of Germany's ambitions for expansion in Morocco and Asia Minor. Many Englishmen, in positions competent to know, have told the writer that they thought that Germany had a just diplomatic grievance against Great Britain on account of these and similar occurrences, though such statements must not be taken to mean in any way a justification of the present war.

[59] Even as late as November, 1914, Professor Ostwald

the flame of war the slumbering fires of the hatred arising from the economic antagonism of the two nations. Wars existed of course before the capitalistic system and they will probably exist after it; but it would be foolish to deny that capitalism, particularly of the "exploitative" type, tends to breed war between nations as well as between classes.

Now, it is time that we give up the fallacy of thinking that peace can be fostered by war, whether between classes or between nations. Hatred breeds hatred and war breeds war. A general conflict between the propertied and the propertyless in Western civilization could only mean its death knell. It would be far more terrible than the present European conflagration. The growth of class antagonism and of class hate should, therefore, reconcile the wealthy classes in society to giving up a part of their private property if nothing

is reported as saying, in a publication especially designed for American readers (*Hamburger Fremdenblatt*, Nov. 1, 1914) that "the development of humanity demands a standard of Europe under German leadership."

else can; for this growing gulf between the rich and the poor must rend our civilization asunder if it continues.

A third objection to capitalism is that it fosters materialism in both the rich and the poor and thus chokes out the higher life of the spirit. Capitalism fosters materialism in the rich because, with their gains from private profit, every avenue of luxury and self-indulgence is open to them. The very acceptance of private profit, indeed, of the doctrine that one is entitled to all one can get within the law, means that the sense of social responsibility will become blunted, if not obliterated. At the same time, the enormous growth of wealth in the capitalist class leads to the undermining of character in other insidious ways. Men come to trust in riches, they come to think themselves above both human and divine law. This world's pleasures and enjoyments loom so large that they seem the only good worth striving for. Men become materialists in their ideals and theories of life as well as in

their practices. Religion loses its meaning except as a badge of respectability, and the higher reality of spiritual things is either denied or receives simply a conventional acquiescence. It is truly hard for these people to enter "the Kingdom of Heaven."

As has been well said, "The lust of personal wealth and the prevailing fever leave men with no eyes for what is worthy or base in civilization. Provided they can make their own homes pleasant and decorate them with a certain measure of taste, they will contemplate in comfort cities which have no single public building worthy of the name and populations squalid and ill-clothed. It is not iron or engines, it is the unchecked operation of greed that makes life so hideous; and until the soul of man is weary of his millions we need hardly look for much improvement." [60]

Capitalism fosters materialism not less among the poor than among the rich, because it makes the standard of all worth financial success. The doings and the standards of

[60] Figgis, *Civilization at the Cross Roads*, p. 104.

the capitalist class are therefore looked up to by the poor as the life which secretly, at least, they would like to copy if they could. The standards of the labouring man thus also become almost wholly materialistic. He may wish for a juster distribution of wealth, but largely for the sake of being "better off" rather than for the sake of being "better." The hopeless poverty, moreover, of the least fortunate elements of the labouring class makes it difficult, if not impossible, for them to believe in the worth of spiritual things. Therefore, the net result of capitalism is to exalt purely economic and materialistic standards of living in all classes in society.

Our indictment against capitalism as it exists in its present form in society might be almost indefinitely continued. We have mentioned these three chief indictments, that it leads to the exploitation of labour, that it results in an unjust distribution of wealth, and that it fosters materialistic standards of happiness and living, because we believe

that these are the strongest indictments that can be brought. They are sufficiently strong to lead all sensible men these days to condemn capitalism as it at present exists in Western civilization. Thus far the reader may agree with our diagnosis of the situation. It is easier, however, to diagnose a social situation than it is to suggest a remedy for the evils found. While the reader may agree with our diagnosis, he may disagree with the remedy which is about to be suggested. If the remedy is one which may be easily criticized, that should surprise no one who understands at all the present condition of the social sciences, because in the present condition of our scientific knowledge regarding human society only a fool or a partisan (and the terms, perhaps, are nearly synonymous) would be certain that he knew the specific remedy for any grave social evil. And yet certain things can be pointed out which may lead us to hope that the situation is not so desperate as it seems. It must not be expected, of course, that the evils of capitalism which have grown

up through four or five generations can be eradicated in a day, or that a new and higher phase of industrial organization, in which justice and liberty shall be realized, can be inaugurated over night. The present generation, above all, needs to be patient and test each step that is taken rather than to rush into some hasty revolutionary change the effects of which cannot well be foreseen.

It would seem that the way out is, in the main, along lines which are now already beginning to be tested, namely, along the lines of assuming fuller social responsibility for our industrial situation and fuller social control over all industrial processes, and not in the speedy abolition of private ownership and initiative in certain great lines of economic activity. To be sure, public ownership, wherever it is advantageous and at the same time practicable, should be welcome, because public ownership is the fullest expression of social control and social responsibility over industrial processes. We want all the public

ownership and management, in other words, which we are really ready for; but the question remains, How much are we ready for? It is also a question whether many of the advantages of public ownership cannot be secured in our great industries without destroying private ownership and private initiative.

For private ownership and private initiative have their advantages too, as must be acknowledged even by the most radical socialists who understand anything of human nature and human society. Private ownership in some sense, indeed, is as necessary for human society as the private home. As Professor Small says, "Anyone who has read the ten commandments carefully knows that private property is written in between their lines." The institution of private property has, indeed, been one of the foundations of civilization itself, and the tradition of private property must be preserved as one of the corner stones of social order.[61] *The objection*

[61] For an excellent discussion of the whole question of private property, its evolution and social value, see the

is not to private property, but to the abuses of private property which capitalism has fostered. Still the question remains whether large business shall be public or private;[62] and if we decide that there are advantages in retaining private ownership in any particular case, then there is a question whether we cannot secure in many cases the advantages of public ownership and retain private ownership too.

It seems to the writer that there is little question that this latter can be done, provided we can secure proper governmental machinery and proper ethical ideals and spirit among our people, particularly among the possessing classes. We have need only to carry the programme of social regulation and control both

recent work (1913) on *Property, Its Duties and Rights*, by Professor Hobhouse, Professor Bartlet, Dr. A. J. Carlyle and others (published by Macmillan and Company).

[62] For an illuminating discussion of the relations between public and private property in modern society, see Professor Ely's just published work on *Property and Contract in their Relations to the Distribution of Wealth*, two volumes (1914).

by government and public sentiment very much farther than what we have already done in order to achieve this. We must, in other words, regulate big business and little business from beginning to end in the interest of the public. We must insist that *business is for social service and not for private profit.* And this means that we must insist that business of all sorts shall be so carried on as to do justice, and not injustice, to the working man, as well as to the public at large.

But the working man, it may be said, lives upon such a small income, with such a narrow economic surplus at best, that his position remains precarious no matter how much business may be regulated. But if business is to be based upon the idea of service then *business must furnish adequate protection to the working man in his precarious condition.* This means that the whole programme of scientific social betterment which our social workers have favoured must be carried out.[63] We must first

[63] An excellent statement of this programme is to be found in Henderson's *Social Programmes of the West.*

of all have strict regulation by law of the hours and conditions of employment in accordance with the highest hygienic and moral standards. We must then have adequate insurance against the contingencies of life, such as sickness, accident, unemployment, old age, and invalidity. We must also provide an adequate relief system for those whom this insurance system cannot protect, such as the weak, the defective, and the inefficient. We must have such measures as the minimum wage, or a living wage for all who work. Free employment bureaus, or labour exchanges, should exist in every city. Free justice should be furnished in our courts of law, without any intermediation of lawyers, where small amounts are involved, or disputes between the labourer and his employer. This would only place the working man on a level of equality with his employer; for hitherto the expenses of our law courts have been such that only the comparatively well-to-do could afford to appeal to them for justice. Free industrial training for trades of all sorts should

be provided in our public school system for those who wish to enter industry. Finally, the working man must be protected in his right to organize for purposes of mutual aid and collective bargaining, in such a way, however, that he shall not be encouraged to infringe upon the rights of his less fortunate, unorganized brother. In brief, social justice must be assured to the economically weak in society.

"But where is all the money coming from to carry out this ambitious programme of the social worker?" the objector may ask. The reply is that in the wealthier Western nations there is ample money to carry out such a humanitarian programme toward the workers without laying additional burdens upon any who are not perfectly able to carry them. Some of the money for such a programme of social and industrial justice might well come through private philanthropy, but undoubtedly the larger amount of such funds should be raised by public taxation of those who are able to bear it. We must, in other words,

have such reforms in our systems of taxation as will furnish adequate revenue for social needs and serve at the same time to distribute wealth and economic opportunity more evenly in society. *Scientific reform of taxation is probably the most important administrative method by which the injustices and inequalities of our present economic system can be overcome.*

Now, as we pointed out above, legitimate incomes under our present system of property rights, may be roughly divided into "earnings" and "findings"; and as we have seen, one's right to "findings" can scarcely be considered as on the same moral and social plane as one's right to "earnings." If society permits "findings" to pass mainly into the pocketbooks of private individuals rather than into the public purse, it can only be upon the basis of temporary social expediency. Now, it is just these "findings" which progressive tax reformers propose shall carry the main burdens of taxation in modern states. No doubt it will be one of the nice points of the statesmanship of the future to determine

what are "findings" and what are "earnings," what are "earned" incomes and what "unearned" in our industrial system. Without entering upon any attempt to make a nice distinction between the two, it is sufficient to point out that the economically fortunate classes in present society have manifestly many sources of "unearned income." One of these for example is the income from bequests and inheritances. While the principle of the solidarity of the family is so important in society that the law may properly exempt from taxation such bequests among its members as will reasonably tend to secure their economic adjustment and to prevent destitution, yet above this minimum, as indeed most modern states recognize, there should be a progressively increasing rate of taxation, which should be at least doubled in the case of collateral inheritances. There is no reason why in the case of very large bequests to private individuals the rate of taxation should not be much heavier than it is in any modern state.

Another source of unearned income which the economically fortunate enjoy is the "unearned increment" in land values, which spring from the scarcity of land relative to the population. This is best seen in our rapidly growing great cities where, on account of the scarcity of land, the speculative profit on "real estate deals" which consist of the purchase and sale of lots is frequently enormous, and in the high "ground rents" of such cities. There is no good reason why all this "unearned increment" should go into the private purses of the real estate speculator or the landlord class, and some of the most progressive communities of the world are beginning to make this also a source of public revenue.

Another source of unearned income is the "speculative profits" which come in certain lines of business because of some temporary or permanent social advantage which that line has. These cases spring not only from "natural monopoly," the granting of "franchises," and the like, but from many social

conditions. It is exceedingly desirable that such "speculative profits" should also be taxed. Probably a general graduated "income tax" is best suited to make the finder of such "findings" share them with society, while it has the additional great social advantage of reaching unearned incomes in present society which come from interest on fortunes accumulated through the unearned increment in land values, from "speculative profits," or even from fraudulent practices, passed on, perhaps, from one generation to another by bequest. Now that the graduated income tax with proper administrative machinery has proved its entire practicability in the leading countries of the civilized world, the chief question concerning it can only be that of its limits. The tax upon the larger incomes would not seem to be yet in any country sufficiently high to affect materially the distribution of wealth. At any rate, it is well said that this form of taxation has come to stay if civilization continues to progress; and probably the only change which will be made in it in the

future will be to make it higher for the higher incomes.

The proper taxation of inheritances, of incomes, and of monopoly land values will then produce sufficient revenue to meet all public needs in carrying out a constructive programme of social betterment. Inasmuch as these taxes cannot be shifted when properly administered,[64] and inasmuch as they have already been put into operation in some degree in the most progressive nations, the objection which might be raised to them would seem to be largely academic, or of a general sociological nature. If it be said, for example, that modern States are not to be trusted with such huge funds, that they would not be used for public good, but would become sources of political corruption, or would be squandered on immense military and naval equipments; then the heavy burden rests upon their op-

[64] The scientific principles of taxation may be consulted by the reader in the works of leading economists, especially in the works of Professor E. R. A. Seligman.

ponent of showing that they would be so misused. On the contrary, the very existence of a social programme calling for vast expenditures for public welfare would seem to be the surest guarantee that public funds would not be squandered on armaments, or dissipated through political corruption.

The stock argument, however, against modern states entering upon a progressive programme of social and industrial betterment, and of levying upon some of the economic surplus of the economically fortunate to finance the same, is that it would "hurt business." It will discourage investment if all the "findings" in modern business above "earnings" have to be shared with the public. The wealthy classes will sulk; they prefer no return on their money rather than the chance of mere legitimate interest. In brief, "capital" will go on a "strike."

Now, there has been abundant evidence in the history of modern business that just this thing might happen. Indeed, so long as the ethical basis of business remains arrant egoism

or mere self-interest, it is the thing which probably will happen. But if business is put upon the basis of social service, it is highly improbable that "capital will go on a strike" because its chances of profits have to be lowered to meet social needs. The example of "business as usual" without material enhancement of prices though profits may be enormously curtailed, in a country aflame with patriotic feeling during a war, shows this. Here comes in again, in other words, the disturbing spiritual factor in the form of an ethical standard which may rule an entire class or an entire people. As long as political economy could base itself upon a purely egoistic theory of human nature—upon pure self-interest—it was possible to ignore largely the influence of the ethical standards of classes upon business. But now that modern psychology has shown such a theory of human nature to be false, and that altruism is as natural to man as egoism, the possibility of controlling even business by altruistic ideals, in some degree at least, must be admitted as

entirely within the field of a practicable social programme.

Hence, the reply to those who say that a programme of full social justice to the workers would "hurt business" is that if business were conducted upon the proper ethical basis—upon the basis of the service of society—it would hurt no legitimate business. This means practically, however, that the wealthy classes must content themselves with a smaller income return on the capital which society permits them to hold and manage in trust, as it were, for the benefit of humanity. They must, in other words, be willing to give up a considerable part of their unearned income to the State and to private philanthropy; and if the rest is to be used for the development of legitimate business, they must also give up their luxury and self-indulgence.

If it be said that this is expecting too much of the economically fortunate classes, the reply is that such sacrifice for the common good is only in accordance with the ethical principles which many of them have long

professed—the Christian doctrine of the stewardship of wealth. It is also in accord with the doctrine of social obligation which scientific social ethics reveals as springing from the facts of social science. "We must recognize," says Mr. Seebohm Rowntree, a wealthy British manufacturer, "that if justice is to be done to the workers, it will mean sacrifice on the part of the rich. *The poverty at one end of the social scale will not be removed except by encroaching heavily upon the great riches at the other end.*" [65] Fortunately many of the best American men of wealth have expressed themselves in similar terms.

Another objection sometimes raised to a programme of industrial justice supported by taxation is that it would dry up the springs of private benevolence and of spontaneous brotherly help between man and man. It would reduce everything to the dead level of law and of governmental coercion. But this would surely not necessarily be so. In a

[65] Quoted by Henderson, *Social Programmes of the West*, p. 129.

democratic society, ruled sufficiently by humanitarian ideals to enter upon and support a programme of social justice, there would be no lack of spontaneous expressions of sympathy and brotherhood between man and man. In any case the aim of a rational private philanthropy can only be to render itself less and less necessary. It is desirable that brotherhood in society should exhibit itself in justice even more than in charity, as the latter is commonly conceived.

Finally, it may be said that an economic programme like the above is "socialism," although party socialists will undoubtedly regard it as an academic fancy dictated by overfriendliness to the present capitalistic order. The time should be past, however, for condemning things by mere names. If by "socialism" is meant collective control over all the conditions of social life, then that is what all human history has been aiming at. All sane students of social life are "socialists" in that sense. If, however, by "socialism" is meant the public ownership and manage-

ment of all capital, or at least of a majority of the business of a country, then the above programme is not "socialism," though so far as the writer can see there is no moral objection to such "socialism" if it is practicable. The historical socialist movement, however, has neither endorsed the philosophical socialism which we first defined, nor been content to make its programme simply the public ownership and management of business in order that a higher social life may be realized. On the contrary, it has had attached to it in most countries a whole philosophy of the social life, filled with the dangerous negations which we have been refuting, such as "economic determinism," the class-conflict theory of society, and the cataclysmic or "revolution" theory, of social progress. Thus the socialist movement has transformed itself from a constructive movement to a negative one. This must be regarded as one of the tragedies of human history, because all this negative social philosophy is no essential part of a true socialism. Whether a purified

socialism will arise in Western nations which will have a constructive programme, and not be negative in its attitude toward the higher social values, remains to be seen.[66] Such a socialism will necessarily be "experimental" in character, and would have no more objection to a programme of industrial betterment than any other progressive political party. On the other hand, such a programme is a necessary alternative to *revolutionary* socialism; for Western civilization will not return to *laissez-faire* individualism in its economic life.

The programme of industrial justice which we have outlined is, then, no mere academic fancy—the product of abstract theorizing. It is the actual programme upon which the most advanced Western nations are entering

[66] It is hardly necessary to add that the moderate English socialism, especially the Fabian movement, has already realized this transformation from a negative to a constructive movement, which is non-revolutionary and thoroughly "experimental" in character. Outside of England, however, it has not spread widely.

under the guidance of the soundest social thinkers and workers. It has grown out of the perception that the industrial poverty which so menaces our civilization, can be abolished like nearly all social evils, *without revolution*, and that it should be abolished. But those who understand the social problem of the present in its deeper aspects know that this is but a preliminary step, though a most essential one, in organized, scientifically planned social progress. They know that beyond lies the problem of socializing the individual and of conserving and building up the spiritual life of humanity.

CHAPTER V

SPIRITUAL AND IDEAL ELEMENTS IN THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

WHAT the world needs is a new soul, that is, a new set of values, even more than a new economic system. Indeed, it needs a new economic system chiefly in order that it may get a new soul; but the two must develop together. Without a new soul, a new economic system would but serve as another opportunity for the strong to exploit the weak. On the other hand, without a new system of industry it is almost impossible to get new and higher ideals of life among the masses of the people. As long as injustice reigns in the material conditions of life, we must not expect people to believe strongly in the ideals of brotherhood. On the other hand, without an ideal of brotherhood to guide their activity, no group of human beings can realize a brotherly society. But

there is no circle here. Ideas and ideals exist to guide and control activity; therefore we must begin our making of the society of to-morrow with a practical idea of what that society shall be; and we must have faith in the power to realize our ideas and ideals.

Nothing is more lamentable than for men to lose their faith in this power of ideas and ideals; for, however much we may admit the influence of other factors, it remains true beyond the gainsaying of all, except of absolute sceptics, that the intellect has been the active factor in human progress in the past. While we are far from endorsing any ideological theory of history, yet ideas and ideals have ever been, since civilization began, the chief instruments by which man has controlled his adjustments to his fellow man. Such ideas as the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and the right of the individual to liberty, have had the utmost influence in shaping human history in the past. It will not do to say that such ideas have been derived from the physical and economic environment; for they have

sprung quite as much from the instincts and native tendencies of human nature as from the influence of any factors in the environment. When men ascribe the origin of ideas to various influences in the environment, they forget the part played by human instincts, by the creative imagination, and by constructive reasoning. They forget, in other words, that the mind of man is self-active and needs no compulsion from without. They have committed the fallacy of accepting as a theory of human nature a passive psychology which is utterly discredited by science to-day. Thus economic determinism, or any other materialistic theory of human progress, is without scientific foundation.

But even more must the society of to-morrow be made by spiritual and ideal elements than the society of yesterday, because in the more complex stages of social evolution the spiritual factors have an ever greater part to play. Science and education must become the chief means of controlling and reorganizing the

society of the future. A clear understanding of our social life will alone make possible its highest development. However, it is only when the discoveries of science and the conclusions of reflective thought are formulated into standards, that is, transmuted into values, that their social efficacy will become apparent. In other words, we can have a right social life only upon a basis of right ideals as to the relations of men to one another. Ideals are judgments as to the value of activities, and they are indispensable instruments in bringing about any high type of adaptation between individuals. We must have, therefore, the right sort of ideals as a basis before we can realize any high type of social life.

Not only must we have right ideals in human society, but the mass of men, one way or another, must be brought to agree upon right ideals. If there is hopeless disagreement in opinions and ideals among individuals, it is idle to suppose that their social life can be characterized by harmony and unity. Now, as we have already seen, the present age is

characterized by an apparently almost hopeless disagreement as to the values and ideals of life. Conflicting traditions and judgments among us have divided modern civilization into warring sects, parties, factions, classes, and nations. Science, to be sure, is at work trying to bring men to more unanimity in their opinions regarding the meaning and ideals of life. But a preliminary work of social science must be to point out in the beginning the importance of ideas and ideals in society and of agreement respecting them, if we are to reach any solution of the social problem at all. In other words, people must come to realize, even before science can act as their guide, the importance of ideas and ideals in practical life, and especially the importance of conserving those which the experience of the past has shown to be truly constructive and productive of harmony and unity in society.

Unfortunately, however, owing to the strife between conflicting traditions and interests

in present society, large masses of men have come to take a partially or wholly negative attitude toward the very values which have guided the social development of the past and which have proved the most civilizing agencies. It is not simply that whole masses of men have gone over to the happiness or "self-culture" ideals of life, but we have also people in plenty who advocate, for themselves at least, a return to a primitive animal-like stage of life—people who believe that the gratification of native impulses and appetites constitutes the supreme good of life. We have others in plenty, who, though they may not go so far, yet disbelieve in organized government, morality, or religion. Finally, we have the worshippers of power and success, who, though difficult to enumerate, constitute no small fraction in the most typical communities of Western civilization.

It is a great mistake to think that such negative philosophers as Rousseau, Bakunin, and Nietzsche are simply aberrant, exceptional social types. On the contrary, they represent

profound tendencies in the social life of the present. These apostles of social negativism have, in other words, but expressed in their doctrines the socially negative attitude of large classes in Western civilization. This social negativism, moreover, runs through the thought of many of the thinkers whose names have become linked with great modern movements, such as Spencer and Marx. Indeed, our whole social life has become tinctured with the philosophy of individualism on the one hand, which asserts that there is no more unity inherent in our social life than there is in a dog fight; and on the other hand, with the philosophy of materialism or agnosticism, which fails to see any more meaning in our social life than in the growth and development of a colony of bacteria. In ethics and religion, in those most intimate inner matters which concern our social life, we have been busy sowing the wind, and it should not be surprising that we are now beginning to reap the whirlwind.

But, if we acknowledge the importance of

ideas and ideals, of the spiritual element in life, then what policy must we pursue to conserve our spiritual possessions and to transmit them unimpaired to the society of the future? Without going into details it is evident that modern civilization has suffered its spiritual possessions in a number of lines to decay, and that we must now enter upon a policy of conservation of these spiritual values, if there is to be any chance of realizing a humanity adjusted to the requirements of a higher social existence. At least along four lines Western peoples have been failing to conserve their higher ideals, namely, along the lines of the family, of government, of religion, and of morality.

If our civilization is to extricate itself from its present anarchy, we must have a revaluation of family life. The place of the family in human society, as a natural intermediary between individualism and a wider life of social service, must be evident to all who have reflected upon the matter impartially. Not only

does the child receive in the family in the simplest, most direct and most effective way, those traditions regarding industry, government, law, morality, and religion, which are the spiritual possessions of the race, but he also learns in it his first lessons in love, service, and self-sacrifice. Loyalty and unselfish devotion to the larger human groups, psychology shows, cannot be effectively developed without first developing loyalty to those smaller groups which call forth the instinctive affections of the child.[67] The attachments developed in the family make possible and actually strengthen the attachments to larger groups. Hence where family sentiments are strong, there one usually finds strong patriotism and strong social sympathies in general.

In other words, the individual learns in the family the meaning and the reality of social solidarity, and he gets necessarily from the family life many of his ideals for the social

[67] See Royce, *The Philosophy of Loyalty*, especially, pp. 220–8.

life generally. Thus the family has furnished in the past the chief means of bridging the gap between selfish human nature and the obligations imposed by social responsibility. That the service learned by the individual in the family group has so often stopped with the family group is no condemnation of the institution of the family. It is rather merely an indication that this group, like even the nation itself, may become a stumbling block to the wider service of humanity, if it is not brought within the sweep of humanitarian ideals. But surely the ethics of service will not work in society at large unless we can get it to work first in the intimate group of the family where altruism is so strongly backed by natural affection. Because the family is the institution which has cradled the civilization of the past, we must not forget its central place in the civilization of the future. The ideal of a stable, wholesome, and sane family life must be held up before each generation if we are to conserve our most precious social possessions; and the social order must be

such as to make possible for each normal individual such a family life.

Because the family has often failed to perform its high functions in the social life, is no reason for a negative attitude toward this institution. If we should condemn the family as an institution for such a reason, we should have to condemn on the same ground all human institutions. Rather our attitude should be, if we are scientific, the constructive one of searching out and correcting the faults in individual character and in social organization which have made possible the failure of the family in individual instances. It is plain that higher ideals must dominate our family life, as we showed when discussing eugenics, if it is to meet the needs of the civilization of the future. Not only must the ideal of the service of humanity dominate marriage and the family, but society in general must value the service of humanity through marriage and the family. We must conserve the human values in these institutions. We must especially recognize true motherhood and true

fatherhood as among the highest forms of social service; and to this end we must educate every normal individual for the duties of marriage and parenthood. Then through the family, as the cradle of individual character, we may rationally hope to regenerate the social life in general.

Again, we must have a revaluation of government and law, if we are to solve the social problem. We have already, to be sure, a childish, almost an absurd, faith in the power of governmental machinery, and in the power of the ballot to work all sorts of social wonders. We need on the one hand, to see the limitations of what government and law can do in society; and on the other hand, we need renewed faith in government and law as regulative and integrating organs of society. The New World especially has lost in part its tradition of the place and function of government. The reproach of lawlessness has especially rested on the American people and with just reason. But this to some extent is due to the fact that

we have lost the ideals of government which our forefathers once possessed. They believed in a politics of patriotism, while we have had too long dominant among us a politics of self-interest. Not only have whole parties been devoted to class-interests, but politicians and even ordinary voters have often shamelessly confessed to being dominated by no higher motive than their own pocketbook. It is no wonder that under such circumstances, with our politics and government simply an expression of contending selfish interests, we have lost our faith in our legislators, executives, and judiciary. The respect for law itself is lost under such conditions, because we no longer believe in the patriotism of either our legislators or our judges. It is evident that democracy will not work under such circumstances, where it is nothing but a mere contention between individual and class egoisms.

We must have a renaissance of the politics of patriotism, if democratic law and government are to endure, because no one can respect law or government which he thinks is simply

the triumph of the selfishness of one class over the selfishness of another. A politics which is founded upon genuine love of country will, moreover, in the last analysis not be found to be antagonistic to a true humanitarianism. The service of a national group is, no more than the service of a family group, opposed to the service of humanity at large. While we must insist that, "Above all nations is humanity," yet humanity must realize itself in the smaller concrete groups from the family and the neighbourhood to the nation, which, through the development of their own solidarity, make possible that wider solidarity of humanity as a whole. Here again we must remember the important socio-psychologic principle that development of loyalty to one group, when we have an hierarchy of groups, does not weaken, but may rather strengthen the loyalty to the great group which includes all as parts.

The negative attitude toward government which grew up in Western civilization during the nineteenth century, ranging from *laissez-*

faire individualism to a doctrine of absolute anarchism, is not justified when we consider the growing complexity of social life and its increasing need of regulation. On the contrary, government will be more and more needed as civilization advances. It must cover in time practically all human interests, in such a way, however, as not to destroy individual initiative or to block normal social change. Nor must it be developed in individual nations in such a way as to prevent the federation of all governments to secure world-peace and world-order. Government within the nation must be made to serve the larger life of humanity. Yet this is practicable only when we have in the leading Western nations a free, enlightened democracy, in which the individual voter is effectively controlled by the ideal of the service of man, rather than by mere selfish, class, or national interests.

Again, we must have a revaluation of religion if the social problem is to be solved. Religion especially stands for the spiritual

life in man. It is essentially a projection and a universalization of social values.[68] While, like government and other agencies of social control, it may make the mistake of sanctioning the wrong values, yet because the individual needs, especially in the more complex stages of social development, to have the social values impressed upon his consciousness in the intensest way, they need to come to him essentially in a religious form. Only thus can they receive that character of universal and absolute validity which is necessary for their effective control of social action. Thus religion has in all ages proved the most powerful force working for social order. It is, as Professor Ward says, "the power of social gravitation which holds the social world in its orbit."[69] Because it is the vehicle of

[68] See the writer's article on "The Social Function of Religion" in the *American Journal of Sociology*, November, 1913; also, Ames, *The Psychology of Religious Experience*.

[69] See his article on "The Essential Nature of Religion" in the *International Journal of Ethics*, Vol. VIII, pp. 169–92.

social ideals, it is equally capable, if the ideals which it sanctions are high enough, of becoming the most powerful engine of social progress. In short, religion is peculiarly connected with the higher life of civilization, so much so, that the death of religion would probably mean the destruction of all higher social values, and therefore ultimately of the higher forms of civilization.

Now, the modern world is rapidly becoming extremely indifferent, if not agnostic, as to the claims of religion. It is listening with a more attentive ear than ever to those leaders in thought who claim that society can get along very well without religion. Religion, in other words, is very far from receiving the place which it should receive in our civilization. It is shoved off into one corner and made, like philosophy, a badge of respectability, or else it is regarded as superstition altogether.

But if our analysis of the social situation is correct, religion is needed to stimulate altruism in the mass of men. A social religion,

in other words, is the one thing which can do most to save human nature from selfishness and brutality, and so to solve the social problem. By a social religion, we mean, of course, one which will exalt the service of humanity over and above the service of any individual, class, nation, or even race, as the highest end and value. Only such a religion can adequately support a humanitarian ethics, and only such, therefore, can overcome the antagonism of interest which may easily exist between races, nations, and classes. If that war between individuals, classes, nations, and races, which constitutes the heart of the social problem, is to be done away with, it must be by a religion of love and service.

Finally, we must have a revaluation of morality and of moral ideals themselves, if we are going to solve the social problem. Indeed, the family, government, and religion are all valuable only as they support moral practices or moral ideals. Yet the modern

world has become strangely indifferent as regards matters of conduct. As Professor Giddings says, "We have been extremely anxious to bridge the gulf between the ignorant and the educated, and we are beginning to wake up to the importance of bridging the gulf between the rich and the poor, but we still are scarcely concerned with bridging the gulf between the vicious and the good." Yet it is just this gulf which must be bridged if the social problem is to be solved.

The virtues are what bind men together in harmonious relations; and it is idle to think that there can be a satisfactory social life without the common virtues of honesty, veracity, loyalty, and justice, to say nothing of the more transcendent qualities of the love and service of humanity as a whole. We must, therefore, wake up to the importance of moral practices and moral ideas in every sphere of our social life. We must conserve our moral ideals as our most precious spiritual possessions and make moral training the centre of our educational system. For the

ultimate problem in human society is to bridge this gulf between the vicious and the just, as Professor Giddings has said. Viciousness and immorality are the anterooms to crime, and crime is the dissolution of the social order itself. We know, of course, that crime may come from defective minds, or that it may be bred by economic injustice; but far more serious to society than these two former sorts of crime, serious as they are, is the crime which is bred by the lowering of the ideals of our social life. This is the crime which may spread some day like wildfire throughout Western civilization and mark its final dissolution in moral anarchy. Civilization must depend in the last analysis upon the individual characters of the men and women who make it up.

How, then, is the gulf between the vicious and the good to be bridged in society? The reply is that men are saved, society is saved, by effective beliefs, provided of course that these beliefs are broad enough to deal properly with all factors in the situation. The question

of questions for social ethics, therefore, is what system of moral ideals is best suited to promote the increasing harmony and progressive development of humanity. Now the ethics of individualism, which makes the criterion by which we shall test our moral ideals either the happiness or the self-development of individuals, has failed in Western civilization to produce either increasing social harmony or the progressive development of all humanity. Hedonistic and "self-culture" ethics, in other words, have failed to "bridge the gulf between the vicious and the good," and have even tended strongly to produce in practice in modern civilization egoistic and anti-social conduct. They are both failures from a social point of view. This has usually been seen by careful ethical thinkers, so far as "hedonistic ethics" is concerned. It has not so generally been seen as regards the "ethics of self-development," which in the nineteenth century was almost universally regarded as favourable to human progress. To a certain extent it undoubtedly is so; but,

at least as popularly interpreted, it also has tended to anti-social conduct.

The ethics of individualism has, we repeat, broken down in Western civilization. Instead of helping to solve the social problem, it has tended to intensify it. What system of morality, then, will meet the needs of our complex civilization? It would seem that only a system which would put *first* the development of humanity as a whole, rather than the development, or happiness, of the individual, would be adequate for the solution of the social problem.[70] In other words, *the moral ideal must be pictured, not as a perfect man, but as a perfect society consisting of all humanity.* Practically this means for the

[70] The writer's paper referred to at the beginning of Chapter I concluded with these words: "If Western civilization is not to go down through a series of hopeless conflicts between nations and classes, it must have a re-birth of humanitarian ethics, that is, an ethics which shall teach the individual to find his self-development and his happiness in the service of others, and which shall forbid any individual, class, nation, or even race from regarding itself as an end in itself apart from the

individual that his moral ideal shall be that his life is for the service of humanity; that his self-development and even his happiness are but means to that service. The ideal of the service of humanity, however, demands the fullest development of the powers of the individual for that service and even his happiness in such service. Thus the humanitarian ideal is synthetic of all that is worth while in the hedonistic and self-culture ideals. But in the practical moral life of men it makes all the difference in the world which is emphasized—self or humanity.

Moreover, a system of morality based on the ideal of the service of humanity has the immense advantage of having the best religious traditions in Western civilization behind it; for it can scarcely be doubted by any sane

rest of humanity. The general acceptance of such an ethics would have prevented the present war; and whatever the issue of the present struggle, only the frank acceptance of such humanitarianism by the leaders of future civilization can save the world from a series of endless conflicts between classes, nations and races."

mind that such an ethics is implicit in the ethics of love and service taught by Christianity at its purest. Now, moral ideals become effective beliefs in society in proportion as they appear to have absolute validity, and this implies, we have seen, a religious sanction. The divorce of morality from religion is fatal to the social utility of either. Moral and social ideals need a socialized religion, a humanitarian ethics a religion of humanity, which will make the service of man the highest religious act.

Now, it is greatly to be regretted that not all at the present time who see the need of a humanitarian ethics see equally the need of a religion of the service of man; and, moreover, that Christianity at its purest is such a religion. Comte might be excused from failing to see in Christianity the religion of humanity which he believed necessary for the solution of the social question, because the only Christianity which he knew was that of ecclesiastical forms, narrow and unadapted to the requirements of modern life. To a large ex-

tent this is perhaps still true of the organized Christianity of the world. Much still has to be done to secure a religion, even in Western civilization, adapted to the requirements of our social life. The Church, therefore, has largely lost its hold both of the masses and of the thinking classes. But a purer, a humanized, a socialized Christianity has been gradually rising among the leading nations of Europe and America, which does seek to meet the social needs of the hour. This new Christianity lays aside theological disputation and devotes itself to the practical application of humanitarian ethics to everyday living. Now, it is much easier to reform and revitalize an existing religion than to create a new one. It would seem, therefore, that even from a strictly scientific point of view, there is need of a revaluation of Christianity by those interested in the solution of the social problem. It deserves seriously to be tried before it is cast aside. Certainly we must have a *redemptive* religion if we are to have a fully socialized ethics—one which is equal to

"bridging the gulfs" in existing humanity.[71]

One way to bridge the gulf between the vicious and the good in society must now be apparent and in the writer's opinion it is the way of the greatest practical importance; and that is, to use the proper ethical ideals to control the development of conduct and character in the young. In other words, the proper moral and social values must be given the young through some system of moral education. Too long in America we have assumed that moral and social education may be left to take care of itself, without any specific provision for it in our educational curricula. But it must now be evident to all thoughtful minds that one reason for the existing confu-

[71] Professor J. Vernon Bartlet, of Mansfield College, Oxford (to whom the writer is indebted for many suggestions), has pointed out that the eminent Jewish scholar, Mr. C. G. Montefiore, in his *Religious Teaching of Jesus* (pp. 57f.) has cordially recognized that the "redemptive note" of Christianity is its "new idea" and strongest trait. *Cf.* Seeley's *Ecce Homo*, chap. XIV.

sion in regard to moral and social values in our civilization, is that we have entered upon no deliberate policy of conserving them.

Moral education is usually claimed to belong especially to the Church and the home; and there can be no doubt that these institutions are best fitted to impress moral values upon the child. The Church especially, as the organized embodiment of the religious life of the people, ought to be the public conservator and propagator of ideal social values. While its function may rightly be conceived as that of being "the spiritual power" in society, its practical task in the present age must be spiritual leadership; and that means that it must become largely an educational institution. It ought to be in the best sense "an ethical culture society," a society where the highest ethical culture is given to all who come within its influence.

Unfortunately, however, as we have seen, large masses of the people are outside of any church; and even if the Church as a whole could be reawakened to the full meaning of

its great mission in society, and the often petty divisions within itself healed, yet it would still probably be some time before all in Western nations alone could be effectively brought under its influence. Therefore, the burden of imparting the minimum moral education needed must be placed upon the public school system. Moral education is, indeed, an essential part of all education, and this has usually been recognized by the best teachers in our schools. The trouble is that the standards of moral education in our schools have been too low to be adequate for social needs; that too much has been trusted to the influence of mere example, and too little to the explicit inculcation of moral ideals. In America there has been a strange, irrational fear lest explicit instruction in the higher ethical ideals be considered religious teaching; while in Europe, where the instruction in morals has usually been entrusted to the representatives of various denominations, sectarian differences have been often emphasized, and thus the larger issues in morality have

been obscured. The net result has been that very little of the higher morality needed to meet the problems of our complex civilization has been taught in the public school systems of either America or Europe.

Now, the character of the child, like that of civilization itself, develops about certain "psychic dominants," that is, about certain ruling ideas and values. What dominant moral ideas, then, can be safely taught to the child in the school, without trenching upon the ground of sectarian religion, in order to control the development of his impulses and habits, or character? What, in other words, must be the moral ideas which Western civilization must conserve, must build itself upon, if it is to survive and become world-wide? First of all, there is the idea of Humanity and its common life, as above that of any nation, race or class. Closely related with it is the idea of human brotherhood, as embracing all men, whatever their condition. Then the idea of the service of humanity, or social service, especially on the part of the stronger nations,

races, classes, and individuals, toward the weaker. Then the coördinate ideas of self-development and self-sacrifice, not as ends in themselves but for the sake of the service of humanity. Then such ideas as justice, peace, and goodwill, not simply between man and man, but between races, nations, and classes. Finally the whole list of social virtues which make possible the family, the State, and the whole harmonious living together of men in groups, which has made possible human civilization.

Without attempting any exhaustive enumeration of the moral ideas, is it not evident that civilization must conserve these spiritual values if it is to survive? Is there any reason why these higher social values should not be taught the child in the school? If it be said that they should not be taught dogmatically, then the reply is that through the events of daily life, through human history, through parables, they can be taught, as it were, inductively. No sane man can doubt that if

such humanitarian ideals were taught in our schools, if they were reënforced by a humanitarian religion preached in our churches, and by a humanitarian science and philosophy taught in our universities, if, in short, they were the "psychic dominants" of our civilization, then in one generation our whole social life would be completely changed. We should have a new earth, and so a new heaven.

CHAPTER VI

THE SOLUTION OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

THE solution of the social problem requires neither superhuman intelligence nor superhuman character. Neither god-like minds nor angelic dispositions are necessary for right human living together. A satisfactory adjustment of the relations of individuals, classes, nations, and even races is by no means beyond the powers of humanity. This does not mean, however, on the one hand, that much accumulation of knowledge, both of human nature and of human society, is not still necessary before this greatest task of civilization can be achieved; nor does it mean that the present character of the mass of individuals will not have to be radically modified before a satisfactory solution of the human problem can be reached.

There is, of course, no permanent solution of the social problem possible. In a world

of change, each age is necessarily confronted by new problems which it alone can solve. Our quest must not be for a static solution, but for principles which may guide us in seeking some rational control over the relations of men to one another. Now, as we have already seen in the preceding chapters, such principles, even in the present state of the social sciences, are by no means wanting. If we applied even our present available knowledge, we could soon have a very much better human world. The truth is that we have not yet become seriously interested in the social problem. We have been so interested in the conquest of nature and in individual achievement, that the problems of human relationships have not greatly concerned us; our civilization, as we have previously insisted, has had hitherto a strong materialistic and individualistic bias. This is shown by our educational system, where no adequate recognition has yet been given to social studies in the curriculum, but much attention to the physical sciences and to self-culture studies.

If we would take as seriously the solution of the social problem as the conquest of nature, wonders might be accomplished even in a single generation.

No external machinery of social organization can possibly solve the problem. The desire to solve it in this way is popular to-day because it seems the easiest way and because it spares us raising bothersome questions concerning individual intelligence and character. But we have seen that society is at bottom the inter-mental life of individuals; that it is the overlapping of selves; and that while external forms of organization are important, they do not go to the root of the matter. This is the common mistake made by many socialists, pacifists, feminists and others. That external social machinery will save, is one of the sweetest delusions cherished by man in all ages in every department of social life—in religion, in morals, in government, in education, even in international relationships.

The present European war is a sad illustra-

tion of the failure of social machinery, useful as it may be in its proper place. Plenty of admirable arrangements existed in Europe to prevent such a war. There were the Hague Conventions and the International Arbitration Court; but they did not prevent the war. The plain truth is that the moral level of European civilization was not high enough to make proper use of such "machinery." Even now people still talk hopefully of machinery which will prevent such a war in the future, such as a federation of European nations, an international police force, or universal disarmament. But they forget that as long as people cultivate the spirit of hatred they cannot be kept from fighting. Nothing, for example, can prevent a war throughout Western civilization between the possessors and the dispossessed—a war infinitely more horrible than the present one—nothing except the *dominance* in the mass of individuals, or at least in the leaders of both classes, of intelligence and of the ideals of peace and of human brotherhood. As a recent American

periodical has well said, "In the long run there can be no peace so long as individuals put their lives at the disposal of any kind of leader who waves a flag of any kind. So long as nations are unreasoning mobs the moment the trumpet sounds, it is idle to depose military castes; others will promptly form and in their turn prevail." No social machinery can be devised, then, which can, *independent of individual judgment and character*, save society from the most awful catastrophes, to say nothing of solving the social problem.[72]

Nor can the social problem be solved by paying attention to but one aspect of man's social life, to but one line of facts. All that

[72] This must not be taken to mean the condemnation of wise attempts to set up machinery to prevent international wars and all other social catastrophes. On the contrary, the social life of man can express itself effectively only through organization. We should have a *super*-national tribunal, and a federation of the world, or at least a "peace league" just as soon as possible. Only we should not imagine that these can possibly work without the development of suitable moral ideals in our civilization for their foundation.

we have written has been an argument to show the dangerousness and inadequacy of one-sided views and one-sided movements in society. The eugenists, for example, see the central place of individual character in the social life, but many of them pay attention to only one line of facts connected with character, namely, the facts of heredity. The economic thinkers and historians see the importance of economic facts, but many of them forget the equal importance of religion and moral ideals. Religious teachers see the vital importance for higher civilization of right religious and ethical ideas and ideals, but in the past they have generally overlooked the great influence of the industrial system and the general social order upon the lives of men. Political scientists emphasize the importance of governmental and social organization, and often quite forget the other factors which mould individual character.[73]

Now, we must get rid of these one-sided

[73] Compare Chapter XVIII in the writer's *Sociology in Its Psychological Aspects.*

ideas and ideals if we are to have true progress in our social life; for they all breed dangerous negative attitudes toward other elements of value in our civilization. We must replace them by a synthetic view of our social life. We must see that human nature and human society are functions of many variables; and that for any effective control over either attention must be paid to all factors of importance. We shall not succeed in straightening out our social life by straightening out simply our economic system, or our government, or our religion, or our sanitary conditions; nor shall we succeed by paying attention merely to one of these at a time; for the social life is a unity. For a well-balanced social progress, therefore, we need a synthesis of social movements as well as of social theories. But we need the synthetic view first as an instrument for well-rounded social development. A social philosophy of some sort must guide any highly conscious social movement. If social work and social legislation are not to be mere dabbling with superficial aspects of the social

problem, they must be based upon a scientific study of the whole of our social life.

Finally, the social problem cannot be solved by any sudden or revolutionary change. This is, indeed, but a corollary easily deduced from the inadequacy of external or partial changes in the social life. If by "revolution" we mean simply sudden social change of any sort, then both history and psychology show that such a method rarely produces profound or lasting change for the better in the character of individuals or of nations. The socially better is built up only through raising the whole level of knowledge, of ideas, of values in a social group; and this as a rule can be done only gradually. Hence when certain sudden social transitions in history are carefully studied, they are found to have been long in preparation. It is only survivals of institutions long outgrown which can be quickly got rid of. Habits are changed in masses of men only by changing the opinions, values and habits of the individuals who make up the mass; and

this generally necessitates that mental attitudes be changed in the young, through controlling in them the development of habits and ideals, that is, through education.

If, on the other hand, we mean by "revolution" the violent seizure by a non-ruling class of the power held by a ruling class, then history shows the inadequacy of this method to solve the social problem. Even in a political sense it is a desirable method of change only when the ruling class is hopelessly out of adjustment with its group, when its power is a mere survival, blocking the path of progress. But as a general method of social reconstruction or reformation, it is hopelessly inadequate, not only because it is relatively external, but chiefly because it stimulates so frightfully the forces which make for social disorder. The violent seizure of power by one class to accomplish its ends can rarely take place without bloody conflicts with other classes. As we have already pointed out, the primitive animal instincts of man, which civilization controls with such difficulty, are thus released. The

question how far violence can be successfully employed in the higher stages of civilization, without defeating the ends for which it is employed, becomes, therefore, the question at issue in the doctrine of "social evolution through revolution."

So far as social science can throw light upon this question, it would seem that there are distinct limits upon the use of force in human society, and that in the higher stages of civilization the use of violence is a process of rebarbarization. It is absolutely destructive of the higher social values which the civilizing process has so painfully built up, and by which men have slowly learned to regulate their conduct. It is a reversion, in fine, to the rule of mere force, which is the essence of barbarism. If long persisted in, it must result in the total destruction of anything worthy to be called civilization. The use of violence, then, in the higher forms of human association, must defeat the very ends for which it might seemingly be rationally employed. And if this is true in the family of

nations, it applies with ten-fold force to the relations of individuals and classes within the nation. All that can be said in condemnation of war in general, can be said with even greater emphasis against civil wars.

"But," it may be said, "you have yourself shown that the method of social change by revolution is inevitable if more normal methods of change fail. Why do you, therefore, condemn it?" [74]

The reply is that revolution is not a *normal* method of social change; that it marks the breakdown of the normal means of social development; that it is not inevitable, but may easily be avoided by plasticity in social institutions and in the mental attitudes of classes and individuals; and finally, that it is the business of social science to show "a more excellent way," since this pathological method of social change is so apt to be destructive of all the higher achievements of civilization. Particularly is revolution inexcusable in modern democratic societies. There government

[74] *Sociology in Its Psychological Aspects*, pp. 163–72.

is supposed to be the will of all the people and the governing class the servants of the people. If the governing class will keep in touch with the needs of all classes; if those in authority in law, in industry, in education, in religion will seek first the public good; if all classes will seek to keep open the means of understanding and sympathy with all other classes, there will be no more need of revolution as a means of social progress than there is of children's diseases in individual development. We would emphasize. however, that the responsibility for avoiding revolution rests especially upon the socially dominant classes. If they will keep free public criticism and discussion, thought and speech, and all the means of forming rational public opinion and of selecting authorities to carry out the same, there will be little or no danger of revolution being resorted to in any social group.

So our hope of solving the social problem must be not through revolution, external machinery, or one-sided reforms, but through

the education of the young, the transformation of the "subjective environment" of ideals and values in society, and the development of a well-balanced programme of social progress. The development of a fuller social intelligence and social character in the individual is the heart of our problem. Practically it becomes, therefore, largely the problem of social leadership and social education. Social machinery and even social "mutations" may assist, but they are powerless without the inner, spiritual transformation of our social life, since that life consists in the mental attitudes which individuals maintain toward one another.

Now, this confession that individual character—including in that phrase the whole active nature of the individual, his impulses, his habits, his intelligence, his values and ideals—lies at the root of the social problem is scouted by many of the social thinkers of our age; for they suppose that such a confession is equivalent to a confession that the social problem, in any or all of its aspects, is insoluble. They

say, "How can the development of individual character be controlled in so many millions? We might as well give up the task before we attempt it."

The reply is that science has now shown us the roots of character in the individual, and how it may be controlled in its development. Scientific analysis shows that there are three chief roots of individual character of which we have need to take account in our efforts to solve the social problem. These roots are heredity, the general social environment, and personal education. In one way or another we have already considered all of these in their bearing upon the social problem of the present; but let us again briefly review them.

The child must have a right start in life, a normal physical heredity, if he is to develop a normal character and function properly in his relations as an individual with other individuals. His environment may be in every respect favourable, his opportunities for per-

sonal education all that can be desired, and yet if he is born with a defective brain, he will probably fall into the socially depressed classes, or at least behave abnormally in his social relationships. Heredity is one root of individual character, and for this reason there is need of a rational eugenics programme in society, as we have seen.

The mass of individuals are, however, born relatively normal, and their character is largely determined by the pressure of the general social environment and by their personal education. There is no doubt that institutions determine individual character within certain limits. This we can readily see if we will observe the effect of the economic system under which we live upon ourselves. Our character is largely influenced by our occupations, and for the mass of individuals occupation is as frequently a matter of necessity as of free choice. An individual of normal natural endowments and perhaps above the average in education in our present society

may easily find himself in an economic situation in which he becomes without work, dependent, and finally practically forced into vice and crime. A just economic order in which people can live and work is evidently an indispensable condition for the normal development of individual character. Bad social machinery or organization, in other words, can easily hamper the development or expression of good character.

Another illustration of the effect of the social environment upon individual character is seen in the pressure of social standards, ideals, and values. This "subjective environment" of the individual, consisting largely of what is known as "social tradition," plays such a large part in the formation of character that many would make it outweigh all other factors. A "social atmosphere" in which there are the proper ideals and standards is, at least, as necessary for the normal moral development of the individual as is a physical atmosphere of a certain chemical composition for his physical development. If it does not

determine the proper development of individual character, it is, at any rate, an indispensable condition for it. It is, moreover, an active agent in furthering development in certain directions. No one can live in an atmosphere of hate, egoism, or vice without absorbing some of those qualities; and the opposite is equally true. We need, therefore, an atmosphere of love, of goodwill, of mutual service between individuals, classes, and nations if we are going to solve the social problem.

The power of the "subjective environment," or "social atmosphere," is especially seen in the influence of the socially negative doctrines which prevail in Western civilization. It is doubtful if the present European war would have taken place, if the predatory tradition, the doctrine of the spoliation of one's competitors as the surest means of advancing one's self, had not such a hold on Western nations. Again, it is well known that egoistic, *laissez faire*, and contract theories of society have had a profound influence upon legisla-

tion and even upon intimate personal relations, such as the family life. On the other hand, a social atmosphere surcharged with such social theories and doctrines as those of social obligation, social responsibility and social service might make all the difference in the world in individual character and in social life. We should see by this time, at any rate, the futility of holding up self-interest as a guide in the social life, and then hoping to solve the social problem by striking a balance between egoisms, whether of individuals or groups.

We must conclude, then, that the general social environment or organization has a great influence upon the development and expression of individual character, and that this is particularly true of the industrial system and of socially prevalent doctrines, standards, and values. It is hard, indeed, to distinguish the effects of personal education from the effects of the latter. Still it is convenient to do so, for personal education is brought about by the still narrower, artificial

environment of the home and the school. Its influence, moreover, upon the formation of habit, opinions, and ideals—of the whole character—of the young, growing individual is so tremendous that it demands separate consideration. For it is probably the easiest way of attempting the control of heredity and of the social environment. The general social organization may be on a high level and a man's heredity normal, but if his personal education has been neglected or vicious, he will probably be a dangerous member of society. On the other hand, though the social life may be far from what it ought to be, if a man can be given through personal education the proper ideas and ideals he may prove a savior of his group.

Now let us illustrate how this control of heredity, of social environment, and of education will work toward the solution of the social problem. Let us take one simple, but profound aspect of that problem—namely, crime. Scientific research has shown beyond

question that a part of the criminal class are hereditary defectives, and that their criminality is due predominantly to this fact. Another part of the criminal class seem to be normal individuals, but are victims of their social environment: the industrial system or the vicious standards of their groups, as e. g., the drink habit, have played the main part in their downfall. Finally, in a part of the criminal class neglected or vicious education in the home and the school seem to be responsible for their condition. Now, if industrial organization were perfectly just and the social atmosphere all that it should be, we should still be very far from eliminating crime, if we did not control the factor of hereditary defectiveness; and so, conditions being changed, with the other factors. If on the other hand, we could properly control heredity, the social environment, and personal education we could eliminate all crime in society, except the small amount due to accident. The problem of crime is, then, not insoluble, and the methods by which its solution must be

sought illustrate the ways in general by which the solution of the social problem should be sought.

Let us now take a more complex aspect of the social question—the labour problem. An externally perfect economic organization of society would not solve this problem, for if there were still individuals lacking good judgment and character, there would still be exploitation of the weak by the strong. As an able financial writer has recently shown,[75] any improvement in the economic status of the labouring class without a corresponding increase in their intelligence and character would result in no permanent advantage to them. Sooner or later the very fact that they were on a lower level of potential social efficiency than other classes would count against them, and they would tend to become socially depressed. He argues that the deepest interest, therefore, of the labouring class, as well as of all classes in society, is in

[75] Babson, *The Future of the Working Classes*, First Section.

increasing the social power and efficiency of its individual members; and that this is largely a matter of proper education. If the labouring class would aim at the domination in their interest of the school system, rather than at the domination of the legal and industrial systems, they would more certainly insure the improvement of their social status and their domination of society as a whole.

Now, the labour problem illustrates the complexity of the general social problem. It is usually assumed, on the one side of the controversy, that all that is needed for its solution is a juster industrial order; on the other side, that moral ideals in employers and employees would suffice to solve the question. But when the problem is studied carefully its solution is seen to involve, as we have seen, not only changes in the educational system, but radical changes in the whole social and industrial order, in social standards and values, and some control of hereditary defects. In other words, we cannot control the development of individual character without control

of the social environment in which the individual lives as well as of the educational system. The solution of the labour problem requires, therefore, like that of the social problem in general, the proper control of the three roots of character, heredity, social environment, and personal education, of all classes, both employers and employees; nor is this beyond the scope of a practicable programme.

But if the control of individual character is the crux of the social problem, granting that that is possible, what sort of character shall we aim at? The reply is that sociology and psychology have demonstrated that for the proper social adjustment of the individual at least two things are necessary in his character: First, the predominance of intelligence over mere impulse or instinct; secondly, the predominance of the altruistic impulses over the egoistic impulses. In other words, reason must be made to prevail over blind impulse and emotion; and altruism, regard for others,

over the selfish tendencies of human nature. Now, human nature, as given to us, is particularly weak in both of these points: it is naturally impulsive and is apt to be irrational; and its other-regarding impulses are weaker than its self-regarding. The whole system of society, and especially of personal education, must be such as to stimulate the development of the rational and altruistic sides of human nature, and duly to repress mere instinct and mere egoism, if we are to develop a sufficiently strong social character in the individual.

This does not mean that the self-regarding impulses and sentiments of the individual should be suppressed, as some have assumed, a thing which would be both impossible and undesirable. It only means that the strong, self-regarding impulses should be harnessed, as it were, and controlled by the altruistic impulses. Only thus can we get strong individuality. Again, it does not mean that altruism, or humanitarian sentiment, is by itself a sufficient guide in social life. On the

contrary, unintelligent altruism is as great a danger in society as abstract, dehumanized intelligence. Intelligence and altruism must work together to produce the fully socialized character. Practically, it may be remarked, the principle of the dominance of reason and altruism in individual character means in social terms the dominance of science and of humanitarian ethics and religion in society. Humanitarian religion and ethics would be blind without science, but science without such a religion and ethics would lack motive power.

Now, Comte thought that if reason and altruism could be made to prevail in individual character and in social life, that would be the solution of the social problem. The modern spirit would perhaps insist upon a third thing as equally necessary, and that is, efficiency. It may perhaps be justly urged that efficiency is a product of intelligence and socialized character. This may be true of the all-round efficiency of the citizen; but there are certain sorts of efficiency, that of the expert in any line for instance, which could not be produced

by the mere dominance of the intellect over the instincts and of other-regard over self-regard. Special training in special lines would in addition be required. Now, the function of the expert is steadily becoming of increasing importance in our social life; and therefore specialized efficiency along many lines may play a great part in the solution of the social problem. Still, from a general social point of view it may reasonably be maintained that intelligence and altruistic character in the individual are more necessary than specialized efficiency, since all must be citizens before they are experts or members of any trade or profession, and since over-specialization must be avoided in order to produce the all-round human qualities which make the good citizen. At any rate, if the world had taken seriously these ideas of Comte, it might have been saved much of its present trouble.

Finally, to perfect and make efficient our social life we need proper social organization. Only through suitable organization can a

society imbued with intelligence and altruism rightly express itself; and, indeed, only through proper organization can intelligence and altruism be developed in the mass of individuals. If it would be a great mistake to place our faith in external organization alone as adequate to solve the social problem, it would be equally a mistake to leave organization out of account. But the problem of securing proper social organization depends upon the problem of securing trained "social experts," or efficient social leaders, which we shall presently notice.

It is not the purpose of this work to outline any general, immediately practicable social programme; and so we may now bring our discussion of the social problem of the present to a close by noticing briefly a general objection to our argument. It may be said that the argument is a mere logical circle: "You have said that individual character is the central thing in the social problem, but you have also shown that individual character is largely,

if not entirely, produced by social conditions; hence your argument is a mere vicious circle."

The reply is that there is no logical circle in the argument. The case is one of action and reaction between the individual and the social environment; and the circle, so far as we find one, is one of facts rather than of ideas. Social life is a constant action and reaction in all of its phases; and institutions, organization, and conditions no more determine individuals than individuals determine them. *The nature of the individual does, however, make the human world;* and just because of this fact the social problem must be mainly attacked through individual intelligence and character, though the transformation of the environment must be made to keep pace with the transformation of character in the mass of individuals, or much good work may be undone.

Moreover, sociologists and psychologists are largely agreed that the personality of the individual is not wholly submerged in the life of his group. There is a certain element of

variation, of individuality, of freedom in each of us which may enable us to a certain extent to rise superior to our surroundings. If it were not so, social life would remain hard and fixed until external forces made changes. Now, this element of variation, and of freedom from mere social determination, while existing in all, is most manifest in exceptional individuals. These need not necessarily be geniuses, but merely persons with capacity for leadership. It is the acceptance of their leadership in thought and action which makes conscious progress in social life possible. Without intellectual leadership, especially, human societies would show no more capacity for progress than animal groups; with trained, expert leadership, on the other hand, their capacity for progress might be increased many fold.

Practically, therefore, the solution of the social problem depends upon the finding and training of social leaders. As Ward has demonstrated, there is probably no lack of individuals in present society with ample nat-

ural endowments for leadership. It is simply a question of finding and training this material in our population. This would seem to be largely the work of our educational system, though all the institutions concerned with the higher life of society should share in this function. Particularly upon our universities should rest the heavy responsibility of training social leaders. Very few of them have, however, as yet taken this responsibility seriously. This is not because of any lack of scientific knowledge, for the sciences bearing upon human life have advanced enormously during the last quarter of a century. The universities produce experts in law and medicine, in agriculture and engineering, but experts in dealing with the problem of human living together very rarely; yet these experts are the ones most needed at the present time if Western civilization is not to perish through its failure to solve the social problem. Will the universities of the Western world awake to their responsibilities of providing social leadership?

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